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ANALYTICAL REVIEW,

OR

HISTORY OF LITERATURE,

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN,

ON AN ENLARGED PLAN.

CONTAINING

SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS OF IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING WORKS

PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH;

A GENERAL ACCOUNT OF SUCH AS ARE OF LESS CONSE-

QUENCE, WITH SHORT CHARACTERS;

AND

NOTICES, OR REVIEWS, OF VALUABLE FOREIGN BOOKS;

ALSO THE

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE OF EUROPE, &c.

“ At hæc omnia ita tractari præcipimus, ut non, Criticorum more, in laude et  
“ censura tempus teratur; sed plane *historice* RES IPSÆ narrentur, *judicium*  
“ *parcius* interponatur.” *BACON de historia literaria conscribenda.*

V O L. XXVII.

FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 1798, INCLUSIVE.

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M DCC XCVIII.



Academiae Cantabrigiensis  
Liber.



THE  
ANALYTICAL REVIEW.

FOR JANUARY, 1798.

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NATURAL HISTORY.

ART. I. *The Natural History of the rare Lepidopterous Insects of Georgia. Including their systematic Characters, the Particulars of their several Metamorphoses, and the Plants on which they feed. Collected from the Observations of Mr. John Abbot, many Years resident in that Country, by James Edward Smith, M. D. F. R. S. &c. 2 Vols. Folio. 208 pages, and 104 plates. Price 2l. 2s. Edwards. 1797.*

THE discoveries of entomology approach immensity. Every day discomposes the cobweb labours of precipitate classification, and the systems erected on the fragments of former observation totter already on the ruins. The framer of an entomologic system resembles a wanderer, who, invited by the overhanging woods and wide-shading luxuriance of an opposite shore, mistakes an arm of the sea for a fordable river, enters the current, and is irresistibly swept to the ocean: if the classes of Linné, still triumphant, rear their heads, and stand unshaken, his divisions and subdivisions are crumbling every hour into dust amid the incessant shock of discovery and new arrangement. The reason is obvious: nature dictated the classes; transient appearances, and frequently whim, the subordinate parts. Of this the genus *papilio* offers indisputable proofs. It's pompous divisions into greek and trojan demigods; the race of Helicon and Parnassus; into bands of Danai and Nymphal trains, with their gorgeous trappings, and attendant Plebeians, proved weak auxiliaries in a system of realities; round, angular, indented, tailed wings, scollops and sinuosities, ensanguined or variegated spots, are characteristics too fleeting and uncertain to form divisions, or establish rank. Accordingly, the catalogues of his successor, armed with ampler means of comparison, broke, and continue to break in upon his orders, and to degrade his heroes. Patroclus has leaped among the noctuæ; Achilles, Nestor, Philoctetes, Telemachus, and a long &c. now join the nymphal train of urfulas, and Atalantas, who, in their turn, are doomed to give up numbers to the new fabrician order of satyrs.

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In this state of fluctuation, between the bursting of old, and the bubbling up of new theories, the greatest service, that can possibly be rendered to the real progress of entomology, is the collection of the produce of judicious researches; and in this respect, the volumes before us are of the highest value. What is given here are not fragments of knowledge, but the result of a series of finished observations. If the work allure and delight by splendour of appearance, and uniform elegance of execution, it still more surprises and instructs by the richness and novelty of its contents, the lucid order with which they are digested, the precision and vivacity of the designs, the modesty of method, and spirit of philosophy, that pervade the whole. But let us hear the editor himself:

\* The execution of this part of the work has not been without its difficulties. The species of *lepidoptera*, as displayed in the last edition of Fabricius, are so immensely numerous, that it requires



no small study and observation to acquire a competent knowledge of them, so as to be certain whether any particular insect that may come before us be among them or not. This difficulty has been overcome in a great measure by the access which has obligingly been allowed the editor to the cabinets of the British Museum, sir Joseph Banks, the late Dr. Hunter, now Dr. Baillie's, and the late Mr. Lee's of Hammersmith, in one or other of which, almost all the new species of Fabricius are to be found, named by himself; while, as to the Linnæan species, the original collection of Linnæus has afforded the fullest and most certain information. Most of even the new insects figured in this work, may be found in one or other of the above cabinets; and all of them in the exquisite collection of Mr. Francillon, transmitted by Mr. Abbot himself. In the genus of *papilio*, the editor has derived great assistance from his accurate and liberal friend, Mr. Jones of Chelsea, whose knowledge of that tribe is perhaps unequalled, and whose drawings are themselves the original authority for many of professor Fabricius's recently published *papiliones*, which were actually described from thence alone.

‘Wherever any of the insects in this work could be detected in the works of Fabricius, and it is hoped there are few, if any, of his among them, that have not been found out, his trivial names have been scrupulously retained, except when, as it will be found, weighty reasons required a change. In many cases, the terminations of his names have necessarily been altered, to prevent their clashing with those peculiar terminations, which Linnæus judiciously appropriated to peculiar sections of *phalænæ*. Thus, the *imperialis* of Fabricius has been changed to *imperatoria*, *regalia* to *regia*, because names ending in *alis* belong to *phalænæ pyrales*. The specific characters, however, have not been blindly adopted from either Fabricius, or Linnæus himself, but have all been modelled from as wide a contemplation as could be obtained of species naturally akin; hence they will be found often more full, and perhaps more exact, than those of Linnæus, who knew comparatively few *lepidoptera*, or those of Fabricius, who was not particularly acquainted with their metamorphoses, knowing them chiefly in cabinets, and therefore wanting the great clue to a natural arrangement. Accordingly, he seems by his preface to this tribe, not to be sanguine about his success in it. His labours in it, however, do him great honour; and although we do not adopt his genera and subdivisions, we admire his acuteness in characterizing species. It is only to be regretted, that this illustrious writer could not have had before him at one view, all the species he had previously described of each genus, that he might, as much as possible, have placed together such as were naturally related; for in this, his last publication is, perhaps, more defective than in any other respect.’

The work consists of one hundred and four small folio plates, with a leaf of description to each, containing the title of the insect, the synonymes, the text of Mr. Abbot, and the commentary of the editor, in english and french; digested into two volumes. The descriptions are preceded by a dedication and

preface in the same languages, and a copious index concludes the whole.

The first volume opens with the genus *papilio*, comprising twenty-four plates, arranged in the order of Linné, the fly of the thirteenth plate excepted, which the editor is inclined to consider as a non-descript under the name of *p. satyrus areolatus*: in which, however, we cannot help recognizing the *canthus* of Linné and Fabricius\*. The collection of *plebeii urbicolæ*, or, as they are called, skippers, is very considerable; most in their winged, and all in their larva state, may be considered as hitherto non-descript; without excepting the larva of *protens*; for the vague representations of it with the chrysalis, in the work of Merian, deserve not the name of figures.

A magnificent assemblage of sphinxes follows next. Twenty species completely described and represented, if we except only the egg, contribute more towards a real knowledge of this genus, than a hundred figures of individuals caught on the wing. Georgia, in a few years, has furnished Mr. Abbot with nearly as many sphinxes, as all Europe it's entomologists during a century. It is, indeed true, that several of them inhabit largely, and are known to spread from the south of North America over the mexican gulph, beyond Guiana; distinguished only from each other by more or less of size and vivacity of colour: an observation probably applicable to all other tribes described here. The least local of sphinxes seem to be, sph. *Carolinæ*†, *vitis*, *crantor*, *lugubris*, perhaps *rustica* and *convolvuli*.

We say, perhaps, because, with respect to *rustica*, it is clear, that the insect represented by Merian on tab. v, and referred to by Fabricius, in his Ent. Emend. iv, 366, cannot be the same with the sph. *chionanti* of the editor. Without insisting on the enormous disparity of size, which approaches to that of sph. *iatrophæ* in the insect of Surinam, the extreme discrepance of larva and chrysalis in both constitutes a specific difference. Why Fabricius, after quoting Merian, should call his *rustica*, '*media*,' would be unaccountable, had he not accustomed us to connive at errors of equal magnitude. If the figure of Sulzer and Roemer be the sphinx in question, it must be considered as a signal variety. The description, which Merian gives of the manners of her insect may account for it's name in the systems: it inhabited in huge numbers, and laid waste the fields of cassava during her residence in Guiana. Though we should have been better pleased, if Dr. S. had refused admittance to the

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\* *P. d. f. canthus*, alis integerrimis fuscis: subtus primoribus ocellis quatuor, pollicis senis. Linn. S. N. II. 768, 129. Hab. in America boreali. The more detailed description of Fabricius confirms the identity of the insect in question.

† It is surely time to expunge the *six* yellow pairs of spots that still continue to figure away on the abdomen of this sphinx in the systems, and to substitute *five*. This has escaped even the eye of the editor, though our fly, and even that of Merian, the stock-reference of quotation, exhibit only that number.



synonimes of Fabricius and Cramer, we applaud his alteration of the name.

With regard to the editor's sphinx *convolutuli*, it is with reluctance, and still more diffidence, that we propose our doubts on it's identity with the european sphinx of that name; in our eyes it appears to answer in every respect to the *cingulata* of Fabricius\*. We agree, that colour alone cannot always constitute specific difference: the sphinx *nerii* of Piedmont, and the german one, slenderly vary in the tinge of their under wings, though they are undoubtedly the same species; but if the absence of red in the under wings and on the abdomen prevailed on the editor to create a new species of the sphinx *drupiferarum*, why should so striking a difference as the whole tinge of the under wings, in the present species, be overlooked? The design of the abdominal marks differs likewise essentially; nothing like the 'cinguli,' observable on the american, being ever seen on the european insect; which is generally larger too, that, at least, which inhabits the fields of Switzerland and Germany. We respect the authority of Mr. Latham; but he would have done well, had he named the person, or the cabinet, that possesses such a curiosity, as an english sphinx *convolutuli* with rosy under wings.

Six *attaci* conclude the first volume; a troop less numerous than splendid: of these the most gorgeous, *cecropia*, *polyphemus*, and *luna*, Mr. Abbot informs us, have been sometimes bred from the pupa in England. *Luna* has spread from North America to China, or from China to the West. That *cecropia* should not be found in Virginia, and be common at New York, is singular. The editor blames that name, unable to distinguish any analogy between the insect and the city of Athens. We are as unable as himself to discover that relation; but to us the appellation means to express merely eminence, or nobility; like *Promethea*, or *Io*, of which the female is yet a non descript in the system. Merian has expressed some of it's kindred on her 6th, 12th, and 22d plates.

The narrow limits prescribed to our review forbid to expatiate on the contents of the second volume, in every respect equal to the first. It exhibits the metamorphosis of thirty-six *bombyces*, fourteen *noctua*, and four *geometra*; many of them of the first magnificence or singularity; such as, *imperatoria*, *regia*, *velleda*, *oculatifissima*, *echo*, *neogama* with it's kindred, *vidua*, or what we should call *epiope*. We cannot, however, forbear congratulating the

\* S. alis integris: posticis nigro-fasciatis; basi sanguineis, margine albo punctatis, abdomine cingulis sanguineis atrisque.

Habitat. in America, v. Robr.

Corpus cinereum. Thorax linea laterali nigricante. Abdomen fasciis alternis interruptis, sanguineis & atris; subtus album, punctis utrinque quinque nigris. Alæ anticæ cinereo atroque undatæ, puncto medio distincto albo, et margine postico albo punctato. Posticæ basi sanguineæ, fasciis tribus atris, apice cinereæ, margine albo punctato. Subtus omnes fuscæ.

dilettante and the student on the pleasure and information they are about to receive from a sedulous perusal and judicious contemplation of such an assemblage of natural curiosities; and we return our thanks to the publisher, equally for the spirit with which he rescued so valuable a collection from obscurity, and the perseverance and taste with which he superintended the execution of the whole.

R.

## HISTORY. TRAVELS.

ART. II. *Vie de Catherine II, Imperatrice de Russie, &c. The Life of Catherine II, Empress of Russia.* 2 Vols. 8vo. about 425 pages each. Price 12s. Paris, printed in the fifth Year of the Republic, (1797,) and imported by De Boffe, Gerard Street.

THE reign of Catherine II forms an epoch, not only in the history of Russia, but of Europe. Notwithstanding the many crimes of which she has been accused, we find this same princess acquiring celebrity to the arms of Russia, civilizing a barbarous people, changing their customs, and regulating not only their destiny, but that of the surrounding nations. Well authenticated memoirs of so conspicuous a personage cannot fail to be interesting, and the author of these volumes assures us, that he lived during some years within her dominions, and has been favoured with the communications of several foreign ministers, who resided at her court.

He begins by a relation of his voyage to the Baltic; and the view of St. Petersburg affords an opportunity of descanting on the talents and exploits of it's founder. The cruelty and barbarity of Peter the Great are attributed partly to his education, and partly to the necessity of appearing to exercise an unbounded power. Happening one day, soon after his return from his travels, to amuse himself in a small boat on the Ladoga, a storm arose, and being afraid lest he should be overset, he made for the shore. Irritated, however, that the waves paid no more respect to an emperor, he immediately sent for an executioner, and actually inflicted the punishment of the *knout* on the uncourtly lake.

Another anecdote does him more honour. Soon after the strelitz had been banished to Astrakan, they were accused of entering into a new conspiracy. The tzar instantly repaired thither, and caused 12,000 of them to be arrested. He then ordered a number of executioners to be assembled, and he himself shewed them an example, by chopping off the heads of the real or pretended mutineers, as they were brought before him. In the midst of this horrible ceremony, a boy about twelve years of age advanced, and placed his head on the wooden block at which Peter officiated, but instead of striking him with the axe, he seized the youth by the arm, and pushed him away. On this the young strelitz proceeded towards another block, but the tzar, who perceived him, chased him once more from the fatal spot. As the boy stepped forwards a third time, to receive his doom, the emperor, in a great rage, demanded why he wished to lose his life. 'You have cut off the heads of my father, my brother, and my relations, who were no more culpable than myself, why then will you

you not cut off my head also?' was the reply. Peter did not say a single word, but causing the child to be removed to a place of safety, he threw away his axe and departed.

The police of the capital, as may be easily supposed, is uncommonly strict: 'there are no talkative politicians at the ordinaries here, as in the other great cities of Europe, who are perpetually embroiling, and perpetually pacifying the universe. Taciturnity, constraint, and distrust, prevail throughout all the taverns of Peterburgh; the guests are not only afraid to repeat, but even to listen to any thing relative to state affairs, because they know that the spies are more numerous, vile, and dangerous, than the familiars of the holy office. Whoever talks about the government and the laws, or concerning either peace or war, is informed by Mr. Pleiel \*, that, if he intermeddle any more respecting politics, he will be sent to make the tour of Siberia.'

Before the empress Elisabeth ascended the throne of the tzars, she had been betrothed to the prince of Holstein-Eutin, brother to the princess of Anhalt-Zerbst, who died previous to the celebration of the nuptials. The tender regard, which she retained during her whole life for her lover, naturally produced an attachment to his family: she accordingly married the grand-duke, her nephew, to his niece, and it is to this circumstance that Catherine was indebted for her elevation.

Soon after her first interview with her future husband, he was seized with the small pox, and from being very comely, became ordinary, and even disagreeable, in consequence of the havoc made by that terrible malady. To this unlucky event is attributed her infidelity to his bed, and, in some measure, the fatal catastrophe that produced his *exit*.

The grand-duchess, who had been educated in the neighbourhood of the court of the great Frederic, soon evinced an attachment to the sciences and fine arts, and joined to beauty considerable mental attainments; in particular, she had a taste for the languages, and could express herself with facility in several of the living tongues. During the life of Elisabeth, if we may believe the account before us, this artful and presumptuous princess had already formed a party against her husband, at the head of which was the grand chancellor, Bestuscheff, an intriguing and unsettled man, and Cyril Razumoffsky, 'whose sudden elevation would have been astonishing in any other state than Russia. Cyril was a peasant, who no sooner heard of the high favour which his brother the field-marshal enjoyed at court, than he left the Ukraine, his native country, and arrived with his guitar (*balaleiga*) at Peterburgh. In a short time Cyril was created a count, commandant of the guards of Ismailoff, hetman of the cossacs of little Russia, and even president of the academy of arts and sciences. Equally destitute of birth and education, Razumoffsky, who was cunning and hypocritical, insinuated himself into the good graces of the grand-duke, and, although but newly arrived at court, betrayed that prince with a degree of baseness and effrontery, worthy of an old courtier.'

But the warm constitution of Catherine, not content with distant prospects of future aggrandizement, tempted her, if we be to give

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\* The minister of the police.



credit to these memoirs, to console herself for her present disappointment, in the arms of a handsome young russian, of the name of Soltikoff, chamberlain to her consort. Being naturally inconstant, however, to him soon succeeded count Stanislaus Poniatowsky: on whom she afterwards conferred a diadem, of which she also deprived him.

On the demise of Elisabeth, the grand duke ascended the throne, under the name of Peter III; and his consort, concealing her ambition with the most vigilant circumspection, affected to exclaim, 'that she preferred rather to be the mother, than the wife of an emperor.'

The new reign commenced with the noblest acts of beneficence. Peter not only pardoned his own enemies, but those who had been considered as the enemies of the state; he accordingly recalled no less than 17,000 exiles from Siberia. He permitted the nobles to serve, or not to serve in the armies, as they themselves were inclined; and he enregistered an *oukaze*, or edict, in the records of the senate, by which they were allowed to travel into foreign parts. The nobles, on the other hand, overjoyed at being enfranchised from the servitude they had experienced under his predecessors, proposed to erect a statue of gold, in honour of their benefactor. Their gratitude, however, was but of short duration.

The state inquisition, exercised under the name of the *privy chancery*, was at the same time abolished, and the spies appertaining to it dismissed. These great reforms are here said to have been suggested to Peter by his aide-de-camp-general and favourite, Ghoudowitsch; he himself, indeed, was deeply impressed with the ambition of doing good, but this noble enthusiasm was frequently checked by vices, the natural effect of a bad education. It was after a debauch of five days, that Ghoudowitsch, bursting into his apartment, where he was surrounded by his mistress, and a few drunken companions, reproached him bitterly for his disgraceful conduct. On this, the prince demanding what he ought to do, to indemnify the empire for so much mispent time, received the plan of the decrees alluded to, which he instantly tucked under his arm, and ran out in order to read them to the senate.

In her designs against her husband, Catherine was seconded by two powerful bodies, which he had irritated by reforms, in themselves salutary, but perhaps injudicious, from the hasty manner in which they were adopted. The first of these was the lawyers, the second the popes, or priests. A marked preference to his german, above his russian troops, was another grand error committed by the tzar. The war projected against Denmark, and the neglect of a solemn coronation at Moscow, were also highly disserviceable to that unfortunate monarch. We are moreover assured here, that he intended to have deprived Paul Petrowitz of the empire, to shut up his consort for life, and to adopt the unfortunate prince Iwan for his heir.

The greater part of the conspirators are represented as adventurers, such as Odart, an italian, and Orloff, Bibikoff, and Passick, mere soldiers, who had risen from the ranks. In their attempt to corrupt the fidelity of the guards, Passick was arrested: as delay would inevitably have divulged the plot, they hastened it's execution the moment they were apprized of this circumstance; and Catherine, being brought from Petershoff, by Alexis Orloff, partly in a carriage, and partly in a peasant's cart, put herself at the head of the insurgents.

No



No sooner had the empress acquired the ascendancy, than means were devised to rid her of all fears respecting Peter III.

‘ He had been imprisoned only six days, when Alexis Orloff, and an officer called Teploff, presented themselves, and said that they were come in order to announce his speedy deliverance, and also to dine with him. On this, in conformity to the practice of the north, glasses and brandy were introduced, and while Teploff endeavoured to engage the attention of the czar, Orloff infused a poisonous compound, procured from a physician belonging to the court, into the liquor intended for his sovereign, who instantly swallowed it without hesitation. He soon, however, experienced the most cruel torments, and reproached Orloff bitterly with his crime, when he attempted to make him swallow a second glass. Having called for milk with a loud voice, the two monsters once more presented him the poison, and pressed him to take it, on this a french valet-de-chambre, who was greatly attached to him, having come to his assistance, he threw himself into his arms, and exclaimed: “ it was not enough to prevent me from reigning in Sweden, and to bereave me of the crown of Russia; they want also to deprive me of my life!”

‘ In the midst of this tumult, the younger of the princes Baratinsky, who was the officer on guard, having entered, the servant was driven out of the apartment, and Orloff, having brought the unhappy prince to the ground, pressed on his breast with his knees, and held him fast by the throat, until Baratinsky and Teploff threw a napkin, formed into a noose, over his head. Notwithstanding all this, Peter wounded Baratinsky in such a manner, as to render the scar perceivable for a long time on the face of the traitor; but the unfortunate czar was soon overpowered, and the murderers at length strangled him.

‘ Alexis Orloff instantly got on horseback, and rode with full speed, in order to inform Catherine, that Peter III was no more. Her majesty was just then about to show herself to the court, and she actually repaired thither, with a tranquil air. Next day, as had been concerted, the intelligence was announced in form, while she was sitting at table; on this she arose and left the apartment, her eyes streaming with tears. Her courtiers, and the foreign ministers, were then dismissed, and she shut herself up for several days, during which she discovered all the marks of the most profound grief.’

The corpse was carried to Peterburgh, and exposed during three whole days in the church of Saint Alexander Newsky. Care was taken to clothe the body in a prussian uniform, and persons of all ranks had the liberty of paying their last tribute of respect, which consists, among the russians, in kissing the mouth of the deceased. It is pretended, that the lips of many persons were swelled, in consequence of the violence of the poison.

In the mean time, great changes took place at court, and many of the conspirators were preferred to higher employments; but the archbishop of Novogorod, who had been highly serviceable during the late commotions, was exiled among his own clergy, and the princess Daschkoff, who had sacrificed her father, sister, and whole family, to the elevation of her friend, whom she had accompanied during the insurrection, at the head of the guards, dressed in complete uniform, was refused the rank of colonel of the regiment of Preobazinsky, and in a short time after disgraced.

No

No sooner had Poniatowiky heard of the revolution, than he prepared to return to Petersburg, but his approach was interdicted, and Gregory Orloff declared the favourite of the empress.

Catherine now purchased the trumpets of renown. Her praises were proclaimed throughout all Europe, and resounded to Petersburg. Her bosom was perpetually occupied with the projects of ambition; but even ambition did not extinguish her ardent desire for pleasure. She however knew when to relinquish it's allurements, in order to occupy her thoughts with the government of the state. She assisted at all the deliberations of the council, read the dispatches of her ambassadors, and dictated, or noted down the answers, entrusting the details only with her ministers, and even the execution of these she herself superintended.

In respect to public affairs, she followed a maxim frequently quoted by herself: "constancy in all our plans is necessary," said she, "for it is better to manage badly, than to change our resolutions. Fools alone are undecided."

We refer such of our readers, as are anxious for a more particular account, to the work itself, which, notwithstanding the faultiness of it's arrangement, contains a variety of interesting documents.

We have but slightly mentioned the particulars of the insurrection against Peter III, because we shall soon have occasion to notice a work of great celebrity, and acknowledged veracity, on that subject. s.

ART. III. *Travels in the Two Sicilies, and some Parts of the Apennines. Translated from the original Italian of the Abbe Lazzaro Spallanzani, Professor Royal of Natural History in the University of Pavia, &c. In Four Volumes, Octavo. With Eleven Plates. 1490 pages. Price 1l. 8s. in Boards. Robinsons. 1798.*

Of all the different kinds of books, that are poured in such abundance into the civilized world, none are so generally captivating as voyages and travels. Scenes of nature, whether moral or physical, shifting in quick succession, and described under the comprehensive views of a philosopher, or with the infectious sensibility of a lively and poetic genius, form the most delightful pictures to the human mind and heart, which cannot remain untouched with the various appearances of creation in the natural world, or the various situations of fellow-men;—travels and voyages relieving the mind by variety, and informing the understanding by exhibiting different objects under a variety of new relations. But, in order to derive either delight or information from books of this, as of every other kind, there must be a certain congeniality of mind between the reader and the writer. We find neither the lover of antiquities, of landscape, of anecdotes and gossiping tales, nor yet of commercial or statistical details, in Spallanzani: he is a physiologist justly renowned, even in the present age of experiment, among natural philosophers in every part of Europe. His experiments and observations on the vegetable and animal kingdoms; on the reproduction of the different parts of animals; the circulation of the blood; microscopical observations relative to certain systems of generation; his experiments on the effects of confined air on different animals, and on mould, which he shows to be of the nature of a vegetable; and his dissertations on the natural

tural history of animals and vegetables:—all these are well known to the learned, and even tyroes in the studies to which they respectively belong.

Though experiment seems calculated to satisfy the mind of the sincere inquirer after truth much more than reason or theory; yet even in this apparent standard of truth there may be a deception: much depends upon the accuracy and penetration of the observer, and, above all, on his candour. Spallanzani, justly celebrated for the first two of these qualities, is still more illustriously distinguished by the last. The principal source of error to a speculative and ingenious mind is an aptitude to be carried away by analogy, and to mistake resemblances for identity. A love of sublimity, and an impatience of suspense, precipitate vigorous but too ardent imaginations, to outrun the slow footsteps of the process of nature, and to mount at once into efficient causes. The true philosopher, not more penetrating than patient, is contented with the investigation of natural causes; the order of nature. The abate S. is fully aware of these truths: he is constantly on his guard against the analogical passion, as appears from all his writings, and particularly from the last chapter in the work before us, on the fishery of a species of shark in the strait of Messina.

Abate S.'s experiments are made fairly, without any prejudice that might bend them to a preconceived theory. They are made with coolness, and peculiar accuracy and precision; and, above all, with a remarkable attention to every circumstance, that might be urged against the result of them. They appear, indeed, at first sight, to be matters of curiosity, rather than subservient to any purpose of utility or of science; but if the progression of science, that is, of approximating facts to one another by more and more relations, be not interrupted, there is not one of them but may take its place in an arch, that shall support some general law of nature.

Our ingenious and judicious philosopher in his former studies attached himself to the vegetable and animal kingdoms, which so naturally solicit the first attentions of the speculative mind from their utility, and from their immediate connection with ourselves; and the complicated organization and laws of which present an inexhaustible field of curiosity and of contemplation. To quit the study of these for that of the mineral kingdom, may seem, at first, to be giving up a very interesting, though difficult, pursuit, for one, though less interesting, more simple and easy. But the case is otherwise: chemistry and mineralogy, which indeed cannot be separated, and which may be considered as one pursuit, form, to a scientific mind, the most captivating, as well as the most sublime part of natural history and philosophy. If we be interested in vegetables and animals, we are still more interested in those elements, and that organization, which fit the earth to be a *nidus* for such a variety of minute, and even invisible principles of reproduction; a common mother or nurse to all that participates in either vegetable or animal life\*. The contemplation of the elements, and their never-

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\* The justness, the precision, and even the philosophical classification of the epithets of Homer are justly admired; and none of them more justly than that of the *food-full earth*, *Ταῖαν ἑστίασιν*.



ceasing revolution and intermixture, while they pass from fusion to solidity, and from solidity to fusion, elevate the mind to the sublimest ideas that enter at all into the human mind; space, duration, power, existence, and necessary existence. And as chemistry and mineralogy are connected with the sublimest, so they are the most useful of all studies: they have long been known to contribute to the improvement of manufactures; they have of late been \* applied to agriculture; and with much success, in the administration of gases, or what has been called the pneumatic medicine, to the cure of diseases that have baffled every other mode of treatment. S., therefore, in the course of his investigations, has not observed an anticlimax: the botany and zoology of Buffon were, in like manner, published before his theory of the earth. But we must apprise our readers, at the same time, that, although the general feature and complexion of the work before us is chemico-mineralogical, there are not even wanting in it several entertaining, instructive accounts of vegetable and animal productions, as well as of characters, manners, and customs; population, agriculture, and commerce. This is a general sketch; but of a work of so considerable an extent, and by so illustrious an author, we proceed to give a more particular analysis.

The original object of this publication was a zeal in the author for the improvement of the public imperial museum of natural history in the university of Pavia. No countries in Europe, the abate justly observes, in an introduction, could furnish a more ample and valuable collection of volcanic products, than the Phlegrean fields, mount Ætna, and the Eolian or Lipari isles. He resolved to visit them, and employed several months in laborious but useful researches. 'He endeavoured to study volcanic countries, as mountains should be studied. The lithologist who would acquire an accurate knowledge of the latter, attentively considers their structure of rock, the whole of their huge masses, the position and direction of the various parts or strata which compose them, and the intertexture and relations of those strata. Fire, in conjunction with elastic gases, has formed whole mountains and islands; but all of them have not been produced in the same manner, nor are they composed of the same substance.' To render his researches more accurate and certain, when he returned to Pavia, he re-examined them with the greatest care; not only with the naked eye, but with the aid of the lens. Vesuvius, Ætna, the Eolian isles, and Ischia, are large mountains formed of rocks, which have undergone liquefaction, and sometimes a true vitrification. What fire can we produce equivalent to these effects? S. determined, if possible, to ascertain the precise degree of heat necessary to produce them: for which purpose nothing could be better adapted than the pyrometer of Wedgwood. From the use of this pyrometer he concluded, that a greater heat is usually kept up in the glass furnaces of Pavia, than is necessary for the fusion of glass. Though the blow-pipe did not, in general, greatly conduce to the success of his experiments, he sometimes found it

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\* Particularly by the earl of Dundonald and Mr. Kirwan.



useful. In some cases he likewise had recourse to the assistance of fire excited by oxygenous gas. What is the activity, in general, of volcanic fires? has been a question long agitated: some asserting that these fires are extremely active, and others that they are very feeble, while all endeavour to support their opinion by facts. Our author declares in favour of the extreme activity of fire, in those eruptions, fed by powerful gases, and among others, the gasification of glass: but, he thinks it probable, that, in the more terrible ejections, another agent much more energetic occurs; water, principally that of the sea reduced to vapour. This curious and important point is treated at length in chap. xxi. The vacuities, inflations, and tumours, which volcanic ejections frequently retain in a state of congelation, can be ascribed only to the elasticity of those gases, while they are in a state of liquidity.

In the volcanized countries, in which our author travelled, 'there are four craters still burning: Vesuvius, *Ætna*, Stromboli, and Vulcano. To all these four, from an ardent desire of obtaining knowledge, he wished to make a near approach. By Vesuvius this wish was not gratified; but *Ætna* was more condescending, though incomparably more formidable; and a similar good fortune attended him at Stromboli and Vulcano. The clear and distinct view he had of these three craters was equally pleasing and instructive'.

Having made the circuit of the Phlegrean fields, the Eolian isles and *Ætna*, he returned to Pavia, taking in his route Orbistello, Comacchio, and other lakes, for the purpose of making observations on eels, and particularly the manner of their generation.

In the present accurate state of our knowledge relative to æriform gases, it is too little to say, and to prove, that the cause of the various flames, appearing on the surface of the ground, is hydrogenous gas. The following are the principal inquiries which S. thought it necessary for him, as a naturalist, to make, with respect to these fires, and such objects as may have a relation to them.

Vol. 1, p. xlvi.—'First, to examine the structure and composition of those mountains; and here I shall incidentally have occasion to speak of *Cimone*, not far distant from Barigazzo, and the highest mountain of our Apennines.

'Secondly, carefully to remark the qualities of each of these fires, and the phenomena accompanying them.

'Thirdly, to compare these fires nourished by natural hydrogenous gas, with those produced by hydrogenous gas procured by art.

'Fourthly, to make a rigorous analysis of the hydrogenous gas of the fires of Barigazzo and the other neighbouring places, by means of the chemical mercurial apparatus; and to carry to those Alpine heights vessels to contain the different æriform fluids, and instruments necessary for these analyses.

'Fifthly, to make the same analysis of the earths from which these fires arise. And here I must observe by the way, that having made at Barigazzo an excavation of some depth and size, in order

to obtain the earth pure; the fires multiplied so much, and became so powerful, that, after I had left the place, the hollow was employed as a furnace for lime, and lime-stone as perfectly burnt in it as in furnaces prepared for the purpose.

‘Sixthly, to examine what may be the matters generative of this inexhaustible supply of hydrogenous gas; which has been so long continually developed; it being certain, from authentic documents, that these fires have burned for a century and a half.’

In one, perhaps more future numbers, we shall endeavour to make our readers better acquainted with this valuable publication, by more extracts, accompanied by occasional observations. H. H.

ART. IV. *A Sketch of Modern France. In a Series of Letters to a Lady of Fashion. Written in 1796 and 1797, during a Tour through France.* By a Lady. Edited by C. L. Moody, LL.D. F.A.S. 8vo. 518 p. Price 8s. in Boards. Cadell and Davies. 1798.

FRANCE is certainly, at the present moment, a very interesting country. The curious observer of man cannot fail to inquire, with much anxiety, what have been the effects, upon the inhabitants of this great country, of a total change of system both civil and religious, and a war the most destructive and terrible of any recorded on the annals of mankind.

The lady, who has favoured the public with this ‘Sketch,’ has done something toward satisfying the curiosity of the people of this country, concerning the present state of France; and we give her full credit for what is the most essential requisite in a traveller, strict impartiality.

From Calais she crossed the country to Paris; from Paris she went into Switzerland; and thence travelled through Savoy; so that she enjoyed a fair opportunity for extensive and various observation. She every where found attention paid to agriculture, the soil well cultivated. In many places the ceremonies of the ancient religion were regularly attended; the people, whatever were their opinions, seemed to express them with great freedom, if ever so hostile to the present order of things; and she perceived no instance of any injury arising to them from this indulgence of the tongue.

Of the desolation, which war has spread over some parts of the country, she speaks with proper feeling and energy; deploring the general mischiefs of this scourge of the human race, in very suitable terms.

Various anecdotes are introduced, which tend to illustrate the characters of individuals, and the general feeling, and to enliven and make more pleasant this entertaining narrative.

Our readers will be gratified by the perusal of the following passages, which prove, that the atheism of the parisiens is far from being general.

P. 147.—‘As we entered St. Sulpice, mass was performing to a numerous, and apparently devout, congregation. They were so engaged, that our prying eyes did not disturb them. We observed that the different chapels situated in the aisles, several of which

which were once richly ornamented, had suffered materially by the rude hand of innovation, having been despoiled of almost all their valuables. The altar-piece, however, remains untouched.

Nor is this the only church where service is regularly performed. Religion is not here, as the enemies of the revolution have reported, altogether set aside. There are no less than thirty churches re-established in this metropolis, besides many private *oratories*, (as they are called,) where service is performed by priests *assermentés*, that is, by those who have taken the last oath, modified by a decree of the government. It is conceived in the following terms; for I have taken a literal copy, in order to be exact.—“Je reconnois que l'universalité de citoyens français est le souverain; et je promet soumission et obéissance à la république\*.” Numbers, we were assured, had taken this oath, and were now, in consequence, in the undisturbed exercise of their clerical functions.

The following account of the conduct of the director giving audience to all those who choose to petition or complain to him, in the audience-chamber, is very interesting.

P. 158.—‘In a few minutes the director (*Carnot*) entered the apartment, wearing the grand costume, also *à la Vandyke*, superb and extremely costly. As soon as he presented himself, the men uncovered, and a kind of silent respect seemed to diffuse itself round the room; which could scarcely have been carried to greater length in the old regime; the appearance of state and the number of the military dispersed in various parts of the apartments, may probably, in some degree, influence the minds of the people. Splendor and magnificence commonly produce this effect, and hence results the propriety of a magistrate wearing an appropriate dignified dress when in the execution of his high office. The impressions of respect stamped on the mind of the vulgar by the same person, in scarlet robes trimmed with ermine, and in a brown coat, bob-wig, and dirty boots, would be very different.

‘The petitioners draw near the director, and are presented by the principal *huissier*, one by one. He takes the petitions, reads a part, inquires into the cause of their grievances; and the answer, a week after, is found in an office erected for that purpose at the bottom of the grand staircase, called *l'office des renseignements*\*. As soon as the whole of the petitions have been received, one of the *huissiers* demands aloud, whether there be any person desirous of speaking to the director, when being answered in the negative, he retires, and the people disperse.

‘One trait which gave me singular satisfaction, was the manner in which he attended to all, though more particularly to the sorrowful tale of a wretched-looking woman, who had two children with her, and one at the breast. This poor creature was the widow of a soldier, who had lately fallen for his country, and left her

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\* “I acknowledge that the universality of french citizens is the sovereign;—and I promise submission and obedience to the republic.”

† Office for information.



destitute. Twice he heard her melancholy story, and then bade her seat herself near the fire, until he could determine something in her favour. This I thought foreboded a good heart, and I was pleased with the man: but the appearance of the woman was, in one respect, truly risible, forming a singular contrast by her rags and tatters with the beautiful ornaments that surrounded her; for the apartment is precisely the same as when inhabited by monsieur, not any of the furniture having been removed.

We need not apologize for inserting the following extracts.

P. 343. — 'At our return to the inn, [at Bonneval, in the mountains of Jura] finding every thing in readiness, we immediately set off, in spite of the snow, which now began to fall afresh; and scarcely had we proceeded seven or eight english miles, along a good road, lined with cottages, that had an appearance of comfort and plenty,—to judge by the quantity of wood heaped up in the covered hovels attached to each habitation, ample provision of maize under the projecting roof, *whole* windows, and good fires,—than we overtook (at the bottom of a steep ascent cut through a forest, pendant, as it were, on the declivity of a hill; whilst, hard by, a rapid torrent came tumbling from rock to rock, foaming and dashing with a horrid noise) a considerable body of troops of about *five thousand*.

'These were on foot,—captains, lieutenants, and privates all indiscriminately walking together, except three of the officers, who were on horseback, and whom we afterwards found to be of superior rank.

'The badness of the road compelling us to keep near them, we had an excellent opportunity of examining them thoroughly; and though they were in a pitiable state, being covered with snow, and indifferently clothed, yet could we see, that nearly the whole corps, who, by their dialect, we judged to be either *provençals* or from some other part of the south of France, consisted of young men, who, regardless of the severity of the weather, were making the best of their way to the army of Italy, chaunting with all their might the well-known patriotic air *des Marseillais*.

'Thus we were strongly escorted across the forest: but what surprised us both, and more particularly our friend, was, the *small quantity of baggage* that accompanied the corps, which, though considerable, did not exceed *ten* waggons; a mode so totally different from our troops when marching, that we could not believe this to be the whole equipage, until one of the officers assured us, that this manner was now generally adopted throughout the french armies, it having been found preferable to the ancient mode of conveying a retinue of useless luggage, which, in forced marches, are always great impediments:—"besides," said he, "you see we are all on foot, and then our *wardrobe*," added he smiling, "to judge by *that* of our soldiers, is neither weighty nor voluminous."

'We proceeded with them till within a short distance of *Mont-sous-Vandrez*, a small village in the gorge of the mountains, where we took some refreshments, and where we also reached another detach-



detachment of troops, consisting partly of hussars and partly dragoons. Of the *former*, some were on foot, but of the *latter*, none; on the contrary, they were particularly well mounted, and mostly young men, except the commanding officers, who appeared to have seen much service, and had, as we were told where we slept, served under the old regime.

‘ These poor fellows, who nearly all bore some visible marks, from scars or wounds, of having dreadfully suffered; and who, from their dress, each wearing an helmet, to which was fixed a kind of horse’s tail, that flowed negligently on their shoulder, that gave them a most martial appearance, had served under *Moreau* in Germany, and were in fact just returned from thence.

‘ When arrived at the inn, a poor miserable looking house, which, from being the only one of that kind in the village, was of course the general rendezvous, we were shewn an apartment, which we found occupied by a respectable veteran, with his wife and daughter. Wishing not to intrude, we declined going in, but he politely inviting us to join his party, we acquiesced.

‘ As we were waiting for something being served by way of dinner, this old *militaire* amused us with the following recital:—He told us, that he belonged to a corps of artillery;—that for a number of years he had supported the fatigues of a military life with the spirits of youth, “and I dare add,” said he, raising his voice, “with the perseverance of a veteran, braving various difficulties; but alas! having of late had the misfortune of being wounded in *Moreau*’s memorable retreat,—a retreat,” addressing himself to our friend, “that must ever eternalize that young general,—I procured permission to join my family until I should be recovered, and from whom this cruel war has for a long time debarred me. It is true,” added he, seeing the tears trickling down his daughter’s cheeks, “we were in hopes of peace, and then I should have made a longer stay with them: but this is over,—my country calls,—and though you see the whole of my family, I must and will obey.” So saying, he got up and walked about the room, in order to conceal a starting tear; then resuming his seat, seemed more composed, and continued by telling us, that his corps, with others, were now on their march to join the army of Italy, in order to make the regular siege of Mantua, “and ere long,” said he, “you will hear that we have succeeded; for since the emperor refuses to accede to moderate proposals, war must be continued, and he will have cause to repent:—remember that an old soldier of seventy-two tells you so.”

P. 413.—‘ While our friend was arranging the *necessary preliminaries*, we were entertained with the following little incident.

‘ The scene, which was truly singular, and to *me* novel in the extreme, will give you an idea what progress this revolutionary spirit has made in most of the small towns that lie contiguous to the frontiers of this country, and how greatly it has impregnated the rising generation.

‘ A little group of ragged urchins, the eldest of whom I am certain had not attained his twelfth year, were engaged in a mock contest. At first I thought it a real quarrel, but as there was

some humour and pleasantry about them, I concluded that it must be play, and asked a person who was passing what they were about. With extreme gravity I was answered, that they were a party of young jacobins, who, to use his own words, "*étoient dans l'acte d'organiser le bureau* \*;" and at that moment settling who was to be president. My curiosity was roused, and I turned with fresh attention to observe this mock contest, which was carried on in a style truly ludicrous. As there was no appointing a president to the satisfaction of all parties, it was unanimously decided to enquire the ages of the party, and fix on the *most ancient*. This point determined, the two youngest were chosen secretaries; when almost instantaneously the president, tattered secretaries, and tribe of ragamuffins ran across the road, seized an empty wheel-barrow, and turning it topsy-turvy, the president was placed on it, the secretaries on each side, whilst the rest took their respective stands all around with as much gravity as if it had actually been the council of ancients, or the directory itself.

\* One of the urchins now whispering the secretary next to him, the latter addressed the president aloud, "*Président, on demande la parole*."—"Citoyen," replied the other, "*La parole est accordée* †." On which the young tattered orator began a long emphatical discourse, the purport of which I could not define: but surely no speech was ever delivered with more apparent gravity than the present. When finished, the president in a most audible voice cried out, "*Citoyen, tu as bien mérité de la patrie* ‡."

† Of this picture of juvenile republicanism we had enough, and quitted the wheel-barrow convention, and continued our route, reflecting on the farce that had just been exhibited, and on which you will not fail to speculate.

P. 483.—The next day, being the first of *Germinal*, or the first of March, the time appointed by the new french system for the meeting of the assemblies called § *Primaires* and *Communales*, throughout France and the attached departments, our new acquaintance obligingly accompanied B. to the spot where the meeting was to be held, which was about three miles distant.

\* "In the act of appointing their officers."

† "President, we ask [a member asks] permission to speak."—

"Citizen, permission is granted."

‡ "Citizen, you have deserved well of your country."

§ The citizens, who have a right of voting at these assemblies, are required to have their names inscribed in a public register, kept open for that purpose, in the *Maison Commune*, or Common Hall, of each Canton or Commune. Should the number of voters, for three successive years, exceed 900, it is then necessary to call two primary assemblies instead of one. So says the law.

The *Electoral Assemblies* do not take place till the 20th of *Germinal*, or April 9, are held in the *chef lieu* of each department, and are composed of those elected at the Primary Assemblies, and return the representatives sent to Paris.

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\* They found a vast concourse of people, consisting mostly of good looking peasants, who had put on their best clothes on the occasion. To judge by one circumstance, they had made up their minds, or more properly had had them made up for them, ere they repaired thither; for each of these peasants held a slip of paper in his hand, on which were written the names of those they were desirous of choosing: but, as out of 7 or 800 voters, perhaps there might not be 100 that could read, it was natural to suppose that these names had been written for them, and if so, how easy must it have been to deceive them, by substituting one person for another. Whether this was the case or not it is impossible to say.

† We have been assured, that at *this time* the majority of the elections in *Savoy* have been influenced by the *priesthood*,—*curés* having re-entered in numbers. These not having taken the oath required by the republic, are forced to say mass in barns, hovels, or where they can. By this zeal, however, in their spiritual vocation they do work on the feelings of the poor deluded inhabitants, that they have them in total subjection, and usurp a secret yet powerful influence over them. But as there are few evils from whence some good does not flow, it is supposed, that hereby the violent revolutionists, who were the terror of the country, will not be returned in the department of *Mont Blanc* as electors, nor appointed to any public charge.

‡ The business commenced by the commissary of the executive government declaring, that as there seemed to be a sufficient number of voters, they might immediately proceed to form the *bureau* or *committee*, which was done in the following manner.

§ At the opening of the *séance*, the *oldest voters that could read* were called to take their seats at the table; and the *most ancient*, a respectable old man of about seventy years of age, with his hoary locks and linsy-wolsey coat, was chosen *president*, and three others next in age *scrutateurs* or *scrutineers*. The president then summoned the younger voters, or those from five-and-twenty to thirty years of age, to approach the table, when three of *these* were chosen *secretaries* to this *bureau provisoire* \*, so called from its being only *temporary*. This settled, the hoary president rose, and pronounced *in the name of the law*, the committee properly constituted, which terminates the power of the commissary of the executive government. This president then proceeds to declare, that as they were now going to elect the *definitive president*, *secretaries*, and *scrutineers*, one of his secretaries would immediately put *l'appel nominal* † for the president, consequently he who had a majority of voices would be deemed duly elected; the two next in number, secretaries, and the same with respect to *scrutineers*. This form being gone through, the *newly elected* president took the seat of the *temporary* one, the old man and his *suite* retiring; while *he*, now invested with power to act during the session, began by reading the article of the french constitution relative to the police, direction,

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\* Provisional committee.

† The nominal appeal.



and regulation of the *primary* assemblies, and which directly specifies, that the said police, &c. is under the immediate controul of the president, and that no matter whatever is to be discussed or taken under consideration during the present sitting, that is foreign to the business of the election.

‘ I cannot but admire this restriction. Popular assemblies are easily led astray from the specific object of their meeting, and business is interrupted by loose and inflammatory declamation. The French have provided against this evil. They have taken care that the primary assemblies be not schools for oratory, or disputing clubs on the subject of government. They are meetings for *business*, not for *disputation*.

‘ The president then proceeded to call the voters who were to nominate the *electors*; and as the *canton*, our gentlemen attended, had a right to send *four*, each voter deposited in a vase, for the purpose, the slip of paper already mentioned, containing the names of *four* individuals. When this was finished, the secretaries proceeded to the scrutiny, and as *four* of the *citoyens* therein specified were found to have obtained a decided majority, the election was finally terminated on that day; but on the contrary, had there been only *three*, the same ceremony must have been repeated until the fourth had been fixed on.

Here ended this business, which passed off with the utmost tranquillity. The president, before he quitted the chair, ordered the *verbal process* to be written, and then announced, that on the morrow they should again assemble to elect a president of the *municipality*, *administrators*, *justices of the peace*, *assessors*, &c. Besides these magistrates, there is an agent for each commune, who is also elected by votes, which are taken a few days after in the *town-hall*, and followed by the nomination of the officers belonging to the national guard. For this the most convenient open place in the commune is fixed on, and *there* the soldiers appear in order, with their uniforms, &c.

‘ The whole of these elections are annual, and take place on the days above specified.

‘ B., desirous of seeing one of these military elections, took me with him, the day being fine, to the place appointed. We there beheld a group of peasants under arms, many of them making the most grotesque appearance imaginable; for in spite of all their military accoutrements, it was discernible, that they knew better how to manage a pick-axe or spade than a gun.

‘ The captain-lieutenant, serjeant, corporal, &c. were nominated in rotation, while the others, who had enjoyed these posts during the year preceding, quietly resumed their station among the privates. The *national agent*, who is obliged to assist, then voted thanks to those who had so handsomely retired, after having filled their respective posts with honour. The drums and fifes then struck up, and this rural militia being joined by their wives, sisters, daughters, and other females, they tripped it away on “the light fantastic toe,” and terminated this important business with the Frenchman’s *finale*,—a dance.’

P. 491.—‘ From Sécheron we have made frequent excursions into Savoy, and I was surprised, after the accounts I have read of it, to find it so well cultivated. Its most respectable inhabitants, imitating the laudable example of our english gentlemen-farmers, make agriculture their favourite occupation.

‘ The names of *Miller*, *Arthur Young*, and *Marshall*, are perfectly familiar in this country, and are quoted in conversation by individuals whom I should not have suspected to have known that such learned agriculturists existed. They are likewise indebted to a set of learned men at Geneva, who within a short time have busied themselves in compiling a periodical work, something similar to our *Monthly* and *Critical Reviews*, wherein are noticed the new publications that appear in different parts of Europe, and to which notices are annexed candid and liberal criticisms. This pamphlet does infinite credit to the gentlemen who have undertaken it, as they appear to select for remark those books which at the present moment are of the greatest use.’

Our traveller is of opinion, that it is not easy to form a just judgement of the state of political opinion at this time in France; for she conceives deceit to be very common to the french character, and she thinks the politicians in conversation become all things to all men.

She sees no dawning of protestantism among the french, but the power of the priests has increased and is increasing; and she believes the catholic religion will again flourish in that country.

She sees nothing to admire in the morals of the new french; the young seem to think all virtue consists in military excellence, and the old in ceremonies and devotion.

We have read this work with great pleasure; it is the production of a cultivated and ingenious mind, neither wedded to aristocracy and superstition, nor a blind admirer of equality and republicanism.

They who give their days and nights to novels may derive amusement from this performance, and the politician and philosopher need not disdain to meditate upon the facts it records, and the remarks it contains.

A. R.

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BIOGRAPHY.

ART. V. *Biographical, literary, and political Anecdotes, of several of the most eminent Persons of the present Age. Never before printed. With an Appendix; consisting of original, explanatory, and scarce Papers.* By the Author of *Anecdotes of the late Earl of Chatham*. 8vo. 3 vols. pages 1210. Price 18s. boards. Longman. 1797.

IN a free country, public men have often been considered as the property of the nation. To appreciate them we must become acquainted with their characters, their pursuits, and, if possible, with their motives. Without this, our censure would most likely prove unjust, and even our praise would be indiscreet. But let us attend to what our author says in his preface: ‘The reputation and conduct of great men, who have filled high situations in the state,

state, must always be interesting to the nation. The memoirs of such persons can never be too frequently read and studied; nor can any injury happen, where truth only is the guide of the writer.

‘Of these anecdotes the editor begs leave to say, that he is not conscious of having advanced a single untruth; that very few of them have been printed before; that it has been his wish and care to avoid whatever is to be found in other books, except in two or three instances, where he has been under the necessity of connecting the facts.

‘There is no impropriety in the publication; because every part of it relates to public men and to public measures. It is not less justice to the great characters themselves, than it is to the public to communicate them. A fastidious secrecy of measures and motives, in matters of public concern, when the events and their consequences have totally ceased, lord Bacon denominates a suppression of truth, history, and character. The appendix,’ he adds, ‘consists of papers; some of which are original, others are explanatory of passages in the work, and all of them are now so extremely scarce, that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to procure them.’

The first character here introduced is that of the duke of Grafton, one of those, who, if not incorrectly, are at least unconstitutionally said, ‘to be born to the great offices of the state.’ The following quotation affords ample matter for reflection: Vol. I, p. 2. ‘When his grace had attained the age prescribed by law, for taking his seat in the hereditary council of the nation, he joined the body of great, popular, and dignified persons, at that time called the *minority*, which consisted of near two-thirds of the first rate families of England; who had associated together to oppose the destructive measures of the king’s favourite. No circumstance could be more honourable to himself than this early mark of his attachment to those principles, which had made the revolution necessary, and the consequent introduction of the hanoverian succession. He saw all those principles violated, by the conduct of the earl of Bute; for it must not be forgot, that the earl of Bute’s system of government, which has been continued by other hands, and although it has sometimes been interrupted, yet it has always revived, has been the true source and cause of all the disturbances at home, and disgraces abroad, which have distinguished the present reign. The distinction was never worth ascertaining, whether lord Bute held the reins of government in his own hands, or in those of his delegates; nor are the periods of his influence worth a figure in chronology, if they did not serve to show the vanity of some men, who thought themselves ministers in those years, when he governed the closet as absolutely and entirely as when he openly held the first offices of the state; and when he abdicated the government, he gave the key of his secret influence, and the system of his theory, to those persons to whom he had given his confidence; who may, indeed, be said to have sometimes exercised their power with more address, but certainly not with less mischief.’

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The author apologizes for the duke's conduct in respect to the proceedings against Mr. Wilkes; he also fully exculpates him from some of the accusations adduced by Junius, and adds perhaps the best eulogium he could have chosen, in the following short sentence: p. 25. 'Notwithstanding the several offices the duke had filled, and the extensive patronage he had possessed, yet at no time did he secure for himself, nor for any of his children, although he has had a numerous family, any place, pension, or reversion whatever.' It may be added, that his grace did not participate in the guilt of the american war, and had no concern in the origin or management of the present.

As much celebrity is still attached to the letters of a popular writer, alluded to above, and his name seems to be still a secret, we shall make no apology for introducing the following passage: p. 15.

'The bold assertions and keen invectives with which the papers of "Junius" abounded throughout, contributed greatly to their popularity and fame. They were occasionally attributed to lord Sackville, to the right hon. W. G. Hamilton, to the right hon. Edmund Burke, to John Dunning, esq. and many others, but without the least ground or foundation in truth. It is to be observed of them, that all parties are attacked in them except the Grenvilles. During their original publication, the writer lived in Norfolk-street in the Strand, and not in affluent circumstances, but he did not write for pecuniary aid. He was a native of Ireland, of an honourable family, and of Trinity-college, Dublin. He was at one time intended for the army, and at another for the bar; but private circumstances prevented either taking place. Perhaps no man possessed a stronger memory. He frequently attended parliament, and the courts in Westminster-hall. And sometimes he committed to paper the speeches he had heard. There are some of lord Chatham's speeches on the american war, printed in the "Anecdotes of lord Chatham's life," which were taken by him; and they are allowed by all those persons who heard them, to be accurate even to minuteness. They want nothing but the dignified action and eye of the noble earl, to give them their original force and energy. When the public discontents concerning the Middlesex election, and other measures had abated, he ceased to write; which was about the close of the year 1771. However, towards the end of the year 1779, he resumed his pen; and wrote a number of political essays, or letters, which he entitled, "The Whig." They were printed in one of the public papers of that time. There were eighteen of them; but there being no sir William Draper to call them into notice, they died, with the other papers of the day. In composition they are not inferior to his former papers. The reader will find some extracts from them, in the appendix, article A. In the year 1791, he went to Madras with lord Macartney, to whom he had been known in Ireland; and there he died.'

The characters of the dukes of Leeds, and Dorset, if the articles alluded to may be so called, contain but little worthy of notice: the following anecdotes, however, in chap. 4, will probably be deemed curious.

p. 43.—‘ Duke of Rutland.

‘ This noble duke, while at Cambridge, wrote two pamphlets. One was called “an essay on the mortality of the soul;” the other was entitled, “a defence of modern adultery.” Neither of them were ingenious; but they are sufficient to rank his grace amongst noble authors.

‘ The only circumstance of his juvenile merits (for he died while a young man) that can with propriety be noticed here, is, that his grace was accidentally the obtainer of Mr. Pitt’s first seat in parliament. When Mr. Pitt failed in his first attempt on the university of Cambridge, he had no prospect of succeeding elsewhere. A day or two after this failure, the duke of Rutland met the earl of Lonsdale (then sir James Lowther) in St. James’s street, and immediately accosted him, with asking his lordship, as a favour, if he could possibly make room in any of his boroughs to bring his young friend Mr. Pitt into parliament, who had just lost his election for Cambridge. Lord Lonsdale, who had always done these things in the most liberal manner, without stipulating any conditions in the manner of voting, (as with governor Johnstone and others, whose votes he never restrained) complied with the duke’s request, and brought in Mr. Pitt for Appleby, at the general election in the year 1780.

‘ If this accidental meeting in the public street had not happened, it is probable that Mr. Pitt had not been in parliament, or at least not for some time.

‘ And Mr. Pitt, in return, made sir James Lowther earl of Lonsdale, and the duke of Rutland lord-lieutenant of Ireland.’

Notwithstanding the delicate manner in which this is told, it contains a bitter satire on the system introduced by the *borough-mongers*, who can, however, claim but little merit in being generous with the property of other men.

After a melancholy instance of the selfishness of *modern patriotism* in Ireland, and some particulars respecting the notorious bribery made use of in the last scottish parliament, the author proceeds as follows.

p. 118.—‘ In later times another kind of influence has been introduced. We have one authentic instance of it. Upon the death of lord Cathcart, in the year 1776, his office of first lord of police was given to lord March, now duke of Queensberry; who resigned his place of vice-admiral of Scotland; the duke of Gordon applied for the latter place for his brother, lord William Gordon, who was not in parliament. Lord North, who was at that time minister, answered, that he had no objection, provided lord William could obtain a seat in parliament. An opportunity of that kind did not then occur; upon which lord North suggested, that lord George Gordon might vacate for his brother. This lord George refused to do; and mentioned the fact in the house of commons, on the 13th of april, 1778. The place was given to lord Breadalbane. Lord North vindicated himself by saying (not in parliament) “that he had a right to expect, that an office worth 1000l. per annum should ~~beget~~ a vote in parliament.”

Chap. XIII contains a variety of particulars respecting 'Memoirs of Great Britain, by sir John Dalrymple.' It appears, that his present majesty permitted sir John to have access to certain papers, and he seems also to have patronized a work, that reflected on the english patriots who opposed the tyranny of Charles II.

The late lord Mansfield enjoys but little of the author's esteem: on the other hand, lord Camden is praised for his adherence to constitutional principles, and lord Temple for his steady attachment to the cause of the people. Vol. II. p. 27.

'Lord Temple's spirit and firmness in support of the cause of Mr. Wilkes, whose cause was that of every man who had any regard for constitutional liberty, deserved and met with,' says our author, 'the highest applause from every part of England. It was his purse which carried on the several law suits against the king's messengers and others. It was his liberality, munificence, and activity, which decided this great cause in favour of the public. The cause must have sunk under the weight of ministerial influence and oppression, if it had not been supported by his intrepidity and perseverance. In this he was alone—even Mr. Pitt thought his spirit was too high. But if it was a fault—it was a virtuous fault—it was a fault in behalf of the people;—whose cause upon all occasions, he dearly loved and cherished. When Mr. Wilkes was committed, his lordship offered to bail him in any sum; if one hundred thousand pounds were required, he declared his recognizance was ready.

'This public espousal of Mr. Wilkes, brought upon his lordship the most distinguished marks of ministerial insult and malice; yet such was his complacency to the necessary dignity of government, that he permitted the first lord of the treasury to be re-elected for the town of Buckingham, rather than suffer the king's first minister to mendicate a seat in parliament. His mind was influenced by public considerations, not by personal ones. Few men's characters have been more mistaken, or more misrepresented than his lordship's. When a great personage said of him, "that he was undoubtedly a great man, but that he loved to embarrass government," he only showed that he had been misinformed. No man could be more zealously attached to a constitutional government than he was; but he detested with fervency and sincerity, a government of secrecy, hypocrisy, and treachery.'

His brother, Mr. George Grenville, was made of more pliant stuff, for he seems to have been ready to enlist with any party, and was careful to secure for his family a rich reversion (a tellership of the exchequer) which is at this present moment enjoyed by his son.

P. 74.—'When lord Bute resigned the place of first lord of the treasury, Mr. Grenville was appointed his successor on the 16th of april, 1763: the fortuitous circumstances of the times placed him in this situation; which, though he filled with integrity and unblemished honour as a gentleman, he wanted that species of genius which is most useful to a minister—a comprehensive mind. He had been bred to the law; and had he been permitted to continue



since in that line, there is no vain opinion hazarded in offering a probable conjecture, that he would have committed to posterity a more honourable character than either lord Hardwicke or lord Mansfield. But lord Cobham thought otherwise, and made him a statesman: when his lordship joined the Pelhams in the year 1744, Mr. Grenville was made a lord of the admiralty; therefore he could no longer appear at the bar. But there is something in the habit or practice of the gentlemen of the law, which seems to confine the mind to distinct points; whether it is from the cases of individuals claiming their daily attention, or the peculiar contraction of their studies, certain it is, that scarcely one lawyer in an age can be called a politician, though so many assume the name. They are too apt to limit their principles and ideas to the focus of an act of parliament. In the great debate on the repeal of the american stamp act, Mr. Grenville maintained the narrow ground of a legislative authority; lord Chatham took the broad ground of constitutional right. Even Mr. Knox, who had obligations to Mr. Grenville, and was consequently partial to him, speaks very coldly of his general knowledge. His words are these: "he (Mr. Grenville) was not well acquainted with the internal state of Ireland, and he knew still less of the circumstances of the american colonies." This is not very like the language of a friend, whatever it may be of candour.

The principal features of Mr. Grenville's administration are the persecution of Mr. Wilkes, and the oppression of North America: neither of which can, perhaps, be strictly called his own. But it was not until after his death that it was authentically known these measures had not originated with himself; that they had been suggested to him by others—by the confidants of Carlton-house, and the confidants of lord Bute. So true it is, that ministers have been seduced into paths without seeing the hand that led them. A curious fact alluded to above is more fully authenticated in p. 84. 'The american stamp-act forms the other principal feature of Mr. Grenville's administration. The great zeal with which he defended this act, gave rise to a general opinion, that the act was his own measure; and it was not until seven years after his death, that the public was undeceived in this matter. On the fifteenth day of may, in the year 1777, Mr. Charles Jenkinson, who had been private secretary to lord Bute, and is now earl of Liverpool, said in the house of commons, "that the measure of the stamp-act was not Mr. Grenville's; if the act was a good one, the merit of it was not due to Mr. Grenville; if it was a bad one, the errors or the ill policy of it did not belong to him."

In the two preceding pages, we are told, that, immediately on the conclusion of the war with France in 1763, 'a scheme was formed of new modelling the governments in America, in order to increase the power and patronage of the crown;' and that in this measure originated the war with America, and the loss of it. 'The prominent features,' it is added, 'of the grand plan were these: first, to raise a revenue in America by act of parliament, to be applied to support an army, to pay a large salary to the governor,

governor, another to the lieutenant-governor, salaries to the judges of the law and admiralty : thus, the whole government, executive and judicial, was to be rendered entirely independent of the people, and wholly dependent on the minister. Second, to make a new division of the colonies, to reduce the number of them by making the small ones more extensive, to make them all royal governments, with an aristocracy in each. This order of aristocrats was not intended to be hereditary, but something like the lords of session in Scotland, for life only. But in a little time they would have doubtless become hereditary, like the nobility of France, whose origin is similar. Amherst was the first person who suggested the idea of an american peerage ; at one time he had thoughts of being created an american peer, with precedency of all others.

‘ In order to support the military system, which was only the basis of the plan, it was necessary to create a fund to establish a revenue, which would soon have been followed by a system of corruption. This gave rise to the american stamp-act.’

It is unnecessary to comment on so execrable a project. It was defeated by the spirit of the americans, and instead of leading to their subjugation, eventually produced their independence.

The remainder of vol. II is occupied with anecdotes respecting lord George Germain, David Hartley, Josiah Wedgwood, Dr. Benj. Franklin, messieurs Burkes, and a few others.

Vol. III contains a variety of papers, most of which have been printed before, but are now become scarce ; such as, ‘ The Whig, by Junius ;’ ‘ Defence of lord-chancellor Hardwicke ;’ ‘ The Country Gentleman, by the bishop of Ossory ;’ ‘ Major Cartwright’s letter,’ and ‘ Mr. Burke’s answer ;’ ‘ Letters on the Sale of Places,’ &c.

The work before us does not excel in point of composition ; but it will be found particularly interesting to those, who wish to obtain an idea of the management of state affairs in this country, during the whole of the present reign. We shall take our leave of it, with an extract respecting the dismissal of lord George Germain, as it will elucidate the chicanery with which the business of the cabinet was conducted at the time of the american war. P. 135.

‘ When the intelligence arrived in London, that lord Cornwallis and his army had surrendered, the ministry quarrelled amongst themselves. They laid the cause of this disaster upon each other ; but at length they settled it upon only two persons : these were lord Sandwich, and lord George Germain. And it was resolved that one of them must go out. Those who laid the blame upon lord Sandwich, contended, that the misfortune was owing to the not having a sufficient naval force on the american station ; those who laid the blame on lord George Germain, contended, that the misfortune was owing to the plan of operations.

‘ It is not necessary to state the facts upon which these two opinions were founded. They have been published by lord Cornwallis and sir Henry Clinton, in vindication of themselves. The contention upon the question, whether the secretary of state, or  
the

the first lord of the admiralty, should be removed, lasted some time. In this divided state of the ministry, parliament met; and on the first day of the session it was obvious to every one, that the dispute was not settled. In the debate on the address, lord George Germain said, "that his opinion was, notwithstanding the surrender of lord Cornwallis, that if Great Britain gave up the sovereignty of America, we were undone." Mr. Dundas, lord-advocate of Scotland, contradicted and reprobated this opinion severely; and Mr. Rigby, who was pay-master, bluntly said, "we were beaten, and therefore must give up the plan of the war." When parliament adjourned for the christmas holidays, the dispute continued open. It is certain, that when lord George Germain delivered his opinion, he thought he delivered the opinion of a much greater authority than his own. But he was not entrusted with the *real secret*. There were other persons who were honoured with a larger share of confidence than he was at this time: and this party triumphed. They resolved to remove lord George Germain from office, and to recal sir Henry Clinton from America, who had requested it; and to make one measure the consequence of the other, although there was no connection between the two cases; but in order to make a connection between them, they applied to sir Guy Carleton to succeed sir Henry Clinton; they were perfectly well assured, that sir Guy Carleton would not go to America, while lord George Germain continued secretary of state for the american department. The manœuvre succeeded. Sir Guy Carleton wrote a letter to the lord-chancellor (lord Thurlow), saying, in substance, that he could not accept the command under the american secretary. The lord-chancellor carried this letter into the closet.

'On Wednesday the 2d of January, 1782, previous to the levee, there was a meeting of lord Mansfield, lord Hillsborough, lord Stormont, lord North, and Mr. Jenkinson, now earl of Liverpool, at his lordship's house in Parliament-street. At this meeting it was finally decided, to remove lord George Germain. When lord George was informed that his fate was decided, he desired leave to resign, to avoid the disgrace of being turned out, which favour was allowed him; and to lighten his fall, he was created an english peer. After hawking the office about for some time, Mr. Ellis, now lord Mendip, was prevailed upon to accept it: and to preserve an appearance of consistency, sir Guy Carleton was appointed successor to sir Henry Clinton.'

We are assured, p. 127, that, when lord G. Germain obtained the american department, 'official spies were placed about him to betray his measures, and by every art and falshood were used to confirm him in his opinions. These spies were the confidants of the secret cabinet; and were placed in every office to give information of every thing that was transacting there, to suggest measures, to lay down plans, and to alter them at the pleasure of the secret, irresponsible, and unconstitutional ministers.'

Another work by the same author, 'Anecdotes of the late earl of Chatham,' has been already noticed in vol. xii, p. 374, and vol. xiv, p. 137, of our Review.



## THEOLOGY.

## ART. VI. Geddes's Bible. Vol. II.

*(Concluded from page 570, of our last volume.)*

HAVING in our last number presented our readers with a copious detail of the contents of the preface to this volume, we proceed to select, as a specimen of the translation, the following passages.

## SONG OF DEBORAH—Judges, chap. 5th.

- 2 ' For the voluntary exertions of the people,  
In the naked, defenceless state of Israel—  
Praise ye the LORD.
- 3 ' Listen, ye kings! give ear, ye courtiers!  
While I, while I to the LORD will sing;  
Psalmody to the LORD, the GOD of Israel.
- 4 ' O LORD! On thy coming from Seir,  
In thy progress from the fields of Edom;  
The earth quaked! the heavens were dissolved!  
Dissolved were the clouds into waters!
- 5 Mountains melted at the presence of the LORD!  
Sinai, itself, at the presence of the God of Israel!
- 6 ' In the days of Shamgar Ben-Anath  
Unfrequented were the roads:  
In by-paths travellers travelled:  
Deserted were the villages of Israel:  
Deserted—till uprose I, Debora;  
Uprose I—a mother in Israel.
- 8 ' New gods they had chosen—  
Hence their apprehensions:  
For neither shield, nor spear, was to be seen  
Among forty thousand Israelites.
- 9 ' My love to those chiefs in Israel,  
Who volunteer'd themselves among the people!  
Praise ye the LORD!
- 10 ' Riders on streaked asses,  
Travellers sitting in couches,  
And walkers along the way;  
Were terrified by the noise of bowmen  
Between the *different* watering-places.
- 11 ' Then acknowledged they the judgments of the LORD:  
His judgments on the villages of Israel:  
Hence were seized with apprehensions  
The people of the LORD!
- 12 ' Awake, awake, Debora!  
Awake, awake words of confidence.  
' Arise, Barak! arise:  
Reverse thy captivity, Ben-Abinoam!
- 13 ' Instantly, came down a residue of worthies;  
To me came down the people of the LORD.
- 14 ' Of the brave of Ephraim, came the flower of Amalek:  
Next was Benjamin among thy people.  
' From Machir came down chieftains;

And

And from Zebulon sceptre-bearers.

15 'Numbered with Debora were the chiefs of Issachar:  
Issachar was Barak's trusty guard,  
That attended him into the valley.

16 'In the districts of Reuben were great deliberations!  
Why abodest thou within thy barriers,  
To listen to the whistlings of the herdsmen?  
Great were the deliberations in the district of Reuben.

17 'Gad, too, sat still beyond the Jordan;  
And Dan minded his shipping.  
Asher abode by the sea-shore,  
And sat still among his havens.

18 'Zebulon was the people, that braved death:  
Naphthali, *that braved* the height of danger.

19 'Kings advanced—anon they combated—  
At Thanach, by the waters of Megido,  
Kings of Chanaan combated:  
*But* a fragment of silver they took not away.

20 'From the heavens combated the stars!  
From their orbs they combated Siferah:

21 'His host the torrent Kishon swept away!  
First of torrents, torrent Kishon!  
Thou trampledst on mighty personages.

22 'Then were foundered the horse's hoofs,  
From the headlong retreat of his rider!

23 'Curse ye Meroz (saith the messenger of the LORD),  
Bitterly curse its inhabitants;  
Because they came not to the LORD's assistance;  
To the LORD's assistance, among the brave.

24 'Blessed, above other women, be Jael,  
The wife of Heber, the Kenite!  
'Bove all tent-inhabiting women, be she blest!

25 Water he [*Siferah*] asked, milk she gave:  
In a costly bowl she presented butter-milk.

26 With her *left* hand she seized a pin,  
And with her right a ponderous hammer:  
She smote Siferah: she smote him on the head:  
She pierced, and perforated his temples!

27 At her feet he tumbled, and fell down: |  
At her feet he tumbled and fell: |  
Where he tumbled, there he lay ghastly dead!

28 'From a balcony gazed Siferah's mother:  
Through the lattice she, wailing, cried:  
"Why is his chariot so long in coming?  
Why so tardy his chariot-wheels?"

29 'The wisest of her ladies answered her;  
And returned *these* words of exultation:

30 "Surely they have found, and are dividing a booty!  
A girl, a couple of girls to each brave man:  
A spoil of various colours for Siferah:  
A spoil of party-coloured embroidery,  
From the necks of those that have been spoiled!"

' So

31 ' So perish all thine enemies, O LORD!  
But may they, who love THEE, become  
Like the sun, when he riseth in his glory !'

' 2 Samuel, chap. xi.

2 ' Now it happened, one evening, that David, arising from  
his bed, walked upon the roof of the royal palace ; and, from  
the roof, he spied a woman bathing herself : and the woman  
3 was exceedingly beautiful. So David sent to enquire after the  
woman ; and it was told to him, that she was Bathsheba, the  
4 daughter of Eliam, and the wife of the Hethite Uriah. David  
then sent messengers to bring her *to him* ; and, when she came  
to him, he lay with her : and when she had purified herself  
5 from her uncleanness, she returned to her own house. But the  
woman, becoming pregnant, sent to tell David, and said : " I  
6 am with child."—On this David sent *the following message* to  
Joab : " Send to me Uriah, the Hethite." And Joab sent  
7 Uriah to David. When Uriah was come to him, David asked,  
how it fared with Joab and the people, and what was the pro-  
8 gress of the war ? Then David said to Uriah : " Go down to  
thine own house ; and bathe thy feet." And when Uriah left the  
king's house, there went, after him, a mess from the king.  
9 But Uriah slept at the palace gate, with the rest of the king's  
10 servants ; and went not down to his own house. When it was  
told to David, that Uriah had not gone down to his own house,  
David said to Uriah : " Thou art come from a journey : why  
11 then hast thou not gone down to thine own house ?" Uriah  
answered David : " The ark, with the men of Israel and Judah,  
remain in tents ; and my lord Joab and the other servants of  
my lord *king* are encamped in the open fields ! and shall I go  
down to mine own house, to eat, and to drink, and to lie with  
12 my wife ? As thou livest, I will do no such thing."—Then  
David said to Uriah : " Stay here, but this day, and to-mor-  
row I will let thee depart." So Uriah staid in Jerusalem that  
13 day. But, on the morrow, David called for him, and made  
him eat and drink in his presence, until he made him drunk :  
yet, at even, he went out to take his bed among the servants of  
14 his master ; and went not down to his own house.—Next  
morning, then, David wrote a letter to Joab, which he sent by  
15 Uriah. And, in the letter, he wrote thus : " Place Uriah in  
the front of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he  
16 may be smitten and die." Joab, having well observed *the*  
*situation of* the city, assigned a post to Uriah, where he knew  
17 there were brave men *to oppose him* : and, on the men of the  
city coming out to fight with Joab, several of David's servants  
18 fell ; and among these was killed Uriah, the Hethite. Then  
Joab sent to inform David all the circumstances of the battle ;  
19 and charged the messenger, saying : " If, when thou shalt  
have made an end of telling to the king the circumstances of  
20 the battle, the king's anger happen to rise ; and if he say to  
thee : ' Why, while ye fought, approached ye so nigh to the  
21 city ? were ye ignorant, that they might shoot *at you* from the  
walls ? who smote Abimelech Ben-Jerub-baal ? did not a  
woman



- woman throw, from the wall, the fragment of an upper mill-stone at him, by which he died at Thebez? why went ye so nigh to the walls?' then say thou: 'Thy servant Uriah, the
- 22 Hethite, is also dead.' The messenger went, and came, and told to David, all that Joab had sent him for: and the messenger
- 23 said to David: "The men of *Raba* prevailed, indeed, against us, and came out to *attack* us in the fields; when we
- 24 drove them back to the very gate: but the shooters shot, from the walls, upon thy servants; and several of the king's servants are dead; and thy servant Uriah, the Hethite, is also
- 25 dead." David replied to the messenger: "Thus shalt thou say to Joab: 'Let not this matter give thee pain: for sometimes here, and sometimes there, the sword devoureth. Make a stronger assault on the city, and destroy it:' Thus do thou console him."
- 26 'When the wife of Uriah heard, that her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband: but, when the mourning was over, David sent, and brought her to his own house; and she became his wife, and bare to him a son.
- 1 'But the thing, which David had done, was evil in the eyes of the LORD: and the LORD sent to David the prophet Nathan; who came to him and said to him: "In one city, were
- 2 two men; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man
- 3 had very many flocks and herds: but the poor man had only one little ewe-lamb, which he had purchased, and nourished: it grew up, in his house, with his own children: it ate of his own morsel, and drank out of his own cup: it lay in his bo-
- 4 som; and was to him like a daughter. Now, a traveller coming to the rich man's house, he [*the rich man*] had no heart to take any of his own flocks or herds, to dress for the traveller that had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb, and
- 5 dressed it for his guest."—David was greatly incensed against that man, and said to Nathan: "As the LORD liveth, the
- 6 man who did so is worthy of death: because he did so, and
- 7 had no compassion, he shall restore the lamb fourfold." Then Nathan said to David: "Thou art the man! Thus saith the LORD, the GOD of Israel: 'I anointed thee king over Israel,
- 8 and out of the hands of Saul I delivered thee: and thy master's daughter and thy master's wives I gave into thy bosom; and the houses of Israel and Judah I submitted to thee: and if that were too little, I was ready to give thee, moreover, such and
- 9 such *other* things: why, *then*, hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, by doing evil in his sight? Uriah, the Hethite, thou hast slain with the sword; and his wife thou hast taken to be thine own wife: after slaying himself by the sword
- 10 of the Ammonites! For that reason, then, from thine house the sword shall never depart, because thou hast despised me; and hast taken the wife of Uriah, the Hethite, to be thine own
- 11 wife.' Thus saith the LORD: 'Out of thine own house I will raise up evil against thee, and will, under thine own eyes, take thy wives and give them to thy rival; who will lie with thy
- 12 wives in the face of the sun, Thou hast acted secretly: but  
this

- this I will do before all Israel; and in the face of the sun!"
- 13 —David said to Nathan: "I have sinned against the LORD."  
Nathan answered David: "The LORD hath, also, remitted  
14 thy sin: thou shalt not die. Nevertheless, as by this deed  
thou hast given, to the enemies of the LORD, great occasion to  
blaspheme, the child, now born to thee, shall assuredly die."  
15 Nathan, then, departed, unto his own house."

Having presented our reader with an ample specimen of the translation, we submit the following remarks to the attention of the learned author. We desire it to be understood, that we offer them in the spirit of candid recommendation, rather than of censure, or hypercritical animadversion; sincerely anxious, that a translation, which can boast so many improvements of the common version, and is on the whole so ably executed, may, in what is yet to undergo the revision of the author, be as free as possible from any improprieties or obscurities of diction. And we trust, that the learned and candid translator will ascribe our observations to this principle, and not to any captious or fastidious spirit. We beg leave also to observe, that the expressions, here objected to, are the only ones, which, after an attentive perusal of the translation, appear to us in the least degree exceptionable.

Judges xx, 28. 'Shall we once more go to fight against our brethren the children of Benjamin, or shall we surcease?' Here we acknowledge, that, both for perspicuity and elegance, we should have preferred the term *cease* or *desist*. 1 Sam. i, 6. 'And because the Lord had given her no children, her rival spitefully provoked her to fretfulness; for that the Lord had refused her fecundity.' This expression appears to us to be quaint, and would certainly to many readers be totally unintelligible. The common version, 'shut up her womb,' or 'made her barren,' would, in our judgment, have been much better. 2 Sam. vi, 18. 'As far as the great stone, on which the ark of the Lord was deposited.' Is not this acceptance of the verb *depose* now obsolete, or, at least, to use Johnson's expression, *obsolescent*? To *set down*, or to *place*, would surely have been preferable. 1 Sam. x, 6. 'Thou wilt meet a company of prophets descending from the high place, preceded by psalteries, tabors, pipes, and harps, and themselves *prophetizing*.' Is not the word *prophetize* obsolete? Besides, if the meaning of the original be to utter predictions, the verb *to prophesy* would have been preferable to *prophetize*: and if the term in the original signify 'to sing sacred hymns,' which, with the doctor, we believe to be its true import here, it would, we presume, have been better to employ the *periphrasis*, than to introduce a term, which, when in common use, implied not to sing hymns, but to utter predictions. 1 Kings iii, 8. 'A great multitude, which can neither be numbered nor supputed.' *Computed*, *counted*, or *reckoned up*, would have been more intelligible. *Suppute* has no good authority, as far as we can recollect. 1 Kings iv, 29. 'And God gave Solomon a wisdom and discernment exceeding great.' Without disputing the propriety of some expressions analogous to this, which are found in certain authors, as *passing strange*, *wondrous*, *pitiful*, we concur with the ablest critics in our language in expressing our



disapprobation of this phraseology.—We should have said *exceedingly great*. To *mollify* (2 Kings xxii, 19) we should prefer *soften*, being a term more generally intelligible; and for the same reason to *obtest*, we should prefer *conjure*, or *beseech*.

We had occasion in our review of the first volume to observe, that Dr. G. had, in several cases, used the inverted order, when, in our apprehension, the natural arrangement would have been far preferable. We say natural arrangement, for there can be no doubt, that, though in some cases the inverted order, or the order of passion or imagination, as it has been termed, is the only proper one, and may therefore in a certain and limited sense be called the natural order, yet the structure of our language clearly requires, that the nominative expressing the agent or principal subject of discourse shall precede, and the noun expressing the object affected shall follow the verb, the one being distinguishable from the other by nothing but its place. The same observations have occurred to us in reading this volume. 1 Kings xvii, 10. ‘He arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the entrance of the city, lo there was a widow-woman gathering some sticks. Her he hailed, and said.’ Had there been either expressed or implied any antithesis between her, and some other person whom he did not hail, this arrangement would have been proper. ‘This not being the case, we should have preferred, ‘He hailed her, and said.’ Judges xix, 25. ‘But to him the men would not listen.’ Here also for the same reason, we should prefer the natural arrangement, and say, ‘The men would not listen to him.’ 1 Sam. ii. 24. ‘Nay, my sons, not good is the report, which I hear of you.’ This phraseology has the appearance of stiffness and affectation. 1 Kings ii, 44. ‘To Shimei the king moreover said.’ As Shimei and the king were not the same person, we think it would be better, if these words were not placed in juxta position. 1 Sam. ix, 13. ‘On your going into the city you will certainly meet him, before he be gone up to the high place to eat; for the people eat not till he come; because it is he who blesteth the sacrifice, after which eat the invited.’ The beginning of this sentence being alloquial, the expression ‘eat the invited,’ has, at first sight, the appearance of a command rather than of information. ‘*The invited eat,*’ is surely better.

We apprehend the learned author has inadvertently committed a mistake, in saying, that the beginning of the middle watch (Judges vii, 19) was about our midnight. The first watch, *caput vigiliarum*, or *ἀρχή*, began at six in the evening, or at sun-set, and lasted till nine. The second, *media vigilia*, or *μεσσηνία*, began at nine and continued to midnight; hence it was called the middle watch. The third, or *tertia*, *ἀναρχή*, continued from midnight to three in the morning; and the fourth *quarta*, *ἑσπέρη*, from three to six. [Vid. Godwin on Mos. et Aar. et Leusden. Phil. Heb. Mixt.] The beginning of the middle watch was therefore not at midnight, but at nine in the evening.

We conclude our remarks with observing, that in this volume, as in every other work of the same author, we discover the most incontestible signatures of a candid, liberal, and independent spirit.

The



The doctor, much to his honour, pursues truth in the love of truth; and with simplicity and honesty of heart declares the convictions of his own mind, unawed by the obloquy and persecution to which his candour may expose him. *Dicatur veritas, ruat cælum*, seems to be his maxim. This dignified superiority to the aspersions of calumny and malignant animadversion is an essential requisite in a translator of the Bible, who, let his erudition, his judgement, and his sentiments, be what they may, must incur the censure of bigots either of this or that party. We repeat what we have often said, and we repeat it with pleasure, that we know no man less under the influence of prejudice or undue partiality to established creeds and fashionable dogmas, than Dr. G.—no man, with whom truth seems to be in higher estimation—and none therefore in this respect, and it is a material one, better qualified to discharge the office, which he has undertaken. Of his talents as a critic we suspend our opinion. On this subject the learned world will have an opportunity of deciding, when favoured with the volume of Critical Remarks. In the mean time, without insinuating any thing disrespectful either to mental endowments and profound literature, or to the abilities of Dr. G., which we believe to be fully equal to his laborious task, we express our conviction, that rectitude of disposition, and freedom from prejudice, as far as it can be attained, are in this department of philology much more necessary, than extensive erudition, or great acuteness of intellect.

We can easily anticipate the torrent of abuse, which will be poured forth against him in consequence of his sentiments respecting inspiration. We can easily foresee, that he will be condemned by those, whose disposition is to reprobate whatever accords not with their opinion; and who, as Quintilian observes, *quem amicum mater dedit, solícite custodiunt*. But it is easier to abuse, than to reason; to calumniate, than to convince. The learned author's opinions on this subject appear to us to be just and rational, founded on evidence, the stability of which it is impossible to shake. With him too we are convinced, that they are friendly to the interests of genuine christianity. Nay, we scruple not to affirm, that in our judgment it requires less learning, and less genius, than Dr. G. possesses, to defend them against the attacks of the most powerful adversaries. On this ground we think him invulnerable. True indeed it is, that argument has little effect, when opposed to prejudice fostered from infancy and established by authority. In this respect the contest would be unequal: for the strongest arguments avail not to defend some truths, or to protect the authors from injurious imputations, while their opponents find declamation and assertion sufficient to sanction the most palpable absurdities. '*Quibusdam sufficit auctoritas: quosdam ratio ipsa, ægré tuetur.*' But if reason and not authority, arguments not names, common sense and not prescription, be to decide the controversy, the learned author, we confidently think, may anticipate the issue with infallible certainty, and assure himself of a favourable sentence. Thus much we deem necessary in justice to the author and our own convictions.

ART. VII. *A View of the Causes and Consequences of the American Revolution; in Thirteen Discourses, Preached in North America between the Years 1763 and 1775: with an Historical Preface.* By Jonathan Boucher, A. M. and F. A. S. Vicar of Epfom in the County of Surrey. 8vo. 690 pa. Pr. 9s. in boards. Robinsons. 1797.

THESE discourses are preceded by a preface of ninety pages, which professes to give an historical account of various events connected with the american revolution.

Having heard of Mr. B., as a clergyman who left America in consequence of the revolutionary measures, which were adopted before the declaration of american independance, we opened this volume with eager curiosity, expecting to find facts unknown in this part of the world, collected by one who was himself agitated in the swelling scene. We have been disappointed; for, instead of giving a narration of transactions in America previous to the revolution, instead of affording a detail of interesting particulars, the causes of that event, the author has left us to gather, from the application of his discourses, some slight general notions, concerning what then agitated the public mind in America.

We learn, and that is all we learn, from these discourses respecting the state of America, when Mr. B. flourished on that continent, as the advocate of the parent state, that many religious sects arose, which denied the divine origin of government, and the divine right of governors; that these sects were encouraged by the friends to american resistance; that the established clergy were sinking in the general estimation; and that a disposition to inquire had taken place of a disposition to believe, in the rebellious inhabitants of the new World.

Mr. B. begins his preface, by noticing the works of those, who have presumed to become the 'historians of the american revolution.'

On the talents displayed by some of these writers he condescends to bestow some slight praise; but 'they are destitute of a spirit of philosophical investigation,' and what is worse, they are mere 'party writers,' unacquainted with facts, or falsely reporting, or fraudently withholding, what they knew.

Mr. B., however, does not mean to become the historian of the american revolution; he aspires to the prouder distinction of furnishing materials for history, and having his name to shine upon the classical pages of the man, whenever he may arise, who shall present to the world an impartial account of the 'american revolt.' Not that he declines altogether the humble occupation of an historian of America; for in his long and laboured preface, he takes a rapid glance at the history and circumstances of the anglo-americans.

Determined to father american apostacy and rebellion, upon a spirit of resistance to the *established church*, our author states, that the first settlers in that country were people dissatisfied with 'every system of religion they could find in Europe.' And he triumphs again and again in the consciousness, that *the church of England has never*



never been disloyal, has always supported the established powers. Was this true of the church of England in the time of James II? Did the nonjurors, in the days of William III, bear any considerable proportion to the jurors, who stuck by their preferments?

But were it proved, that the church of England never deserted the powers that were established, could it not be proved, that this too has been much the character of the church of Rome?

The church of England has been long the established church, and a part of the state government, of this country and her colonies: and is it high praise to say of a church, that she forsakes not her own interest? But waving all these pertinent questions, we ask Mr. B. if governments have never degenerated into tyrannies; and if it be to the praise of the established church, that she will always support tyranny. Are the people only capable of error? are governors alone infallible?

We presume, our author, unless he is prepared to answer our last questions in the affirmative, is ill prepared to defend the positions advanced with so much authority in the large volume before us.

Mr. B. thinks he has accounted for the rebellion of the inhabitants of New England, by stating, that they were not adherents to the established church; but we think he gives no plausible reason for the revolt of Virginia and Maryland. The maxim of king James is an axiom with Mr. B.: 'no bishop, no king:' and wherever he finds a sect, or a country, that disputes the infallibility of bishops, he finds in that sect, or country, nothing but determined regicides, bloody rebels, alike hostile to all authority civil and ecclesiastical.

He thinks, indeed, that in the first constitutions of the american colonies a fundamental error was introduced; to which, perhaps, as it's cause, the revolt may be traced. 'Too much weight was thrown into the popular scale.'

But Mr. B. has not shown us how much or how little should have been thrown into the popular scale.

Our conclusion from his reasoning, or rather his assertions, is, that little if any influence should ever be given to the people; and that that government alone is strong, which is so, not by the support, but in opposition to the people.

America was in debt to England; and Mr. B. thinks this influenced America, to undergo the expense of it's rebellion, in order to throw off that debt.

Another great cause of this revolt, mentioned by our author, was (page 50) the dependence of the clergy upon the people.

This induced many of the clergy, and they were clergy of the church of England too, always hostile to the rebellion, to join the populace. It should seem from this circumstance, that the church of England is most faithful in her adherence to the governments which pay her, and we think to this humble praise all churches, and all clergy, have an undoubted claim.

As Mr. B. publishes this work as a check to the loose spirit of the present times, (page 44) this is a wholesome hint to our government, to provide well for the clergy, that they may have no inducement



to lean to the interests of the people. Having assigned these as causes of the american revolution, of which no child in England could be ignorant, our author gives no information whatever, concerning the progress of american union, the combination of the rebels, the march of treason and revolt, or the characters (except a little abuse of Franklin and Washington) who raised and directed the storm.

The consequences of this revolt are

1. The establishment of a weak government (preface, page lvi).

As Mr. B. thinks all government weak, which is not strong *against* the people, he has a right to call the american government weak: but as we think, with the archbishop of Cambray, all government weak, which is not strong by popular support, we think the american government *strong*: and we find the proof of our opinion in the suppression of a late insurrection. The president called the people to his aid, and the insurgents dispersed in a moment.

2. The revolution of France is here called a consequence of the american revolution. We have heard much, and believe little, of this matter. In the national debt, and the feudal system of old France, we find the more probable causes of her revolution.

Mr. B. however is not without consolation amid the ruin he has been so unhappy as to live to witness: he clearly foresees, and positively foretels, that (pages lxxviii and lxxi preface) France and America will each be governed by a monarch. Should the loose spirit of the times, that spirit which alike threatens the thrones of bishops and of kings, collect sufficient power to humble the british throne, Mr. B. has an expedient for the salvation of our government, even in defiance of the assaults of our enemies.

Our readers shall hear the preacher for themselves. Pref. p. lxxxi.—‘Extraordinary times and circumstances call for and justify extraordinary measures. When, therefore, in 1761, the kingdom of Portugal was invaded by the spaniards, it was not, in my estimation, merely an effort of despair, but a project of deep and sound political judgment, in the marquis de Pombal, to propose to remove the seat of government to the Brazils. All due precautions were taken, and calculations made as to the number of vessels necessary to transport the royal family, &c. across the Atlantic. The nation shewed great want of wisdom only when they abandoned the project, on the removal of that danger which first suggested it; for, in the present circumstances of Europe, should the principles on which the republic of France is founded ever be completely established, it is romantic to hope that either Portugal, or any other small state, whatever it's form of government may be, can long preserve any other independence than such as Poland, Brabant, Holland, Italy, &c. have preserved; unless, like Great Britain, they can and will be contented, even during a few short and precarious intervals of peace, to rest on their arms. The people of Portugal will hardly deserve either independency or freedom, if, when ere long it may haply be in their power to resume this project, it is not resumed and carried into effect. This golden opportunity the dutch, cramped by the narrow and contracted system of their local politics, have now lost for ever. Had that

that people, hitherto regarded as eminently sagacious, on the first breaking out of the present confusions, when it was known that their country was the chief object of the revolutionary rage, instead of those divided and distracted politics by which they have been undone, manfully resolved to migrate to the Cape of Good Hope, they might, instead of being now one of the unglorious satellites of France, still have been a great and happy nation. Admitting, then, (what is almost too dreadful to admit, even hypothetically,) that there is now no hope left of any future permanent peace to Europe, and that America, secure, as she may imagine she is, in her isolated situation, resolves to stand aloof, what is to hinder Great Britain, whilst yet she possesses fleets, wealth, skill, and spirit, and above all, whilst yet she possesses her ancient uncontaminated principles, from transporting her empire to the east? There, in the peninsula of India, without abandoning either her dominions in Europe, or in the West Indies, she might possess a territory inferior in extent only to the neighbouring kingdom of China; who, from her love of peace, would be as good a neighbour—as France, from its contrary character, always has been, and always will be, a bad one. There, happy in being placed beyond the troubled politics of Europe, blessed with a soil and a climate equal to any on the globe, with every possible circumstance in our favour for commerce, we might, without any of that great danger which must ever attend the attempt in an old establishment, repair and renovate our constitution: and there, undisturbed by republican projects, so abhorrent to the genius of Asia, we should need no alliance; but leave our posterity, if true to one another, at peace with themselves and with all the world.’

Mr. B. has advanced no systematic reasoning on the nature of government, which may not easily be made to refute itself; his positions are not in unison, which must ever be the case with those of a man, who would *be thought* not to plead the cause of every possible tyranny, and who, yet, with Filmer, sounds government in divine right, and contends, that to resist *any established government whatever*, is rebellion against God and religion.

We will introduce the reader to his concluding observations, on the subject of the divine origin of government, and he will be able to judge for himself.

P. 544.—‘ This long enquiry concerning the divine origin and authority of government might perhaps have been deemed rather curious than useful, were it not of acknowledged moment, that some dangerous inferences which are usually drawn from the contrary opinion should be obviated. One of these dangerous inferences it seems to have been the aim of the sermon now before me to inculcate. Government being assumed to be a mere human ordinance, it is thence inferred, that “rulers are the servants of the public:” and, if they be, no doubt it necessarily follows, that they may (in the coarse phrase of the times) be cashiered or continued in pay, be revered or resisted, according to the mere whim or caprice of those over whom they are appointed to rule. Hence the author of this sermon also takes occasion to enter his protest against “passive obedience and non-resistance.”



‘ It really is a striking feature in our national history, that, ever since the revolution, hardly any person of any note has preached or published a sermon, into which it was possible to drag this topic, without declaring against this doctrine. It seems to have been made a kind of criterion or test of principle, and the watch-word of a party. For, it cannot well be said, that the circumstances of the times, or the temper of men’s minds, either lately have been, or now are, such as particularly to call for these studied and repeated protestations. What is not less remarkable is, that whilst the right of resistance has thus incessantly been delivered from the pulpit, insisted on by orators, and inculcated by statesmen, the contrary position is still (I believe) the dictate of religion, and certainly the doctrine of the established church, and still also the law of the land.

‘ You are not now to learn my mind on this point. As, however, the subject has again been forced on me, let me be permitted again to obviate, if I can, some fresh misrepresentations, and again to correct some new mistakes.

‘ All government, whether lodged in one or in many, is, in it’s nature, absolute and irresistible. It is not within the competency even of the supreme power to limit itself; because such limitation can emanate only from a superior. For any government to make itself irresistible, and to cease to be absolute, it must cease to be supreme; which is but saying, in other words, that it must dissolve itself, or be destroyed. If, then, to resist government be to destroy it, every man who is a subject must necessarily owe to the government under which he lives an obedience either active or passive: active, where the duty enjoined may be performed without offending God; and passive, (that is to say, patiently to submit to the penalties annexed to disobedience,) where that which is commanded by man is forbidden by God. No government upon earth can rightfully compel any one of it’s subjects to an active compliance with any thing that is, or that appears to his conscience to be, inconsistent with, or contradictory to, the known laws of God: because every man is under a prior and superior obligation to *obey God in all things*. When such cases of incompatible demands of duty occur, every well-informed person knows what he is to do; and every well-principled person will do what he ought, viz. he will submit to the ordinances of God, rather than comply with the commandments of men. In thus acting he cannot err; and this alone is “passive obedience;” which I entreat you to observe is so far from being “unlimited obedience,” (as it’s enemies wilfully persist to miscall it,) that it is the direct contrary. Resolute not to disobey God, a man of good principles determines, in case of competition, as the lesser evil, to disobey man: but he knows that he should also disobey God, were he not, at the same time, patiently to submit to any penalties incurred by his disobedience to man.’

This work is written with some of the force and with all the bitterness of party.

Of the principles and feelings of the author need we say more, than that he states the execrable Peter Porcupine, the malignant and brutal slanderer of all excellent men, to be an *able* writer, and to have



have become a popular public man, 'much to the credit and happiness of America' (pref. page LVIII); and that he holds up archbishop Laud, as one of the ornaments of human nature, and greater than lord Bacon? (page 595.)

Although we have seldom seen so bulky a volume, as that which is now before us, fall so far short of its pretensions, so little stored with unknown facts, or with close, connected, and conclusive reasoning, yet we are far from insinuating, that the author possesses no considerable talents.

His notions often appear to us wild and visionary, especially for a man who has numbered 'threescore years;' his principles are those of a tory of the very first water; and he is more careful to display his erudition, than to store his page with well arranged thought: yet his language, if not correct, is copious, and he seems to possess great fertility of mind.

His mind appears to us strong, active, and vigorous, but by passion driven to extremes, and by prejudice and superstition led to devious paths.

We wish he had drunk at the well, which was digged by the man he so much despises, Mr. Locke, with infinite care: but it is not to be hoped, that he will ever relish the correct thinking of that great author; and it is now too late, for the correction of his style, to recommend him "to give his days and his nights to the study of Addison."

Left, perchance, some reader of sensibility should glance at the last page of our author's preface, and there finding, that, after the sacrifice of much preferment in America, Mr. B. has received none in England, but the small vicarage of Epsom, should feel his mind irritated against our governors in church and state, we have the pleasure to state, what we have heard from good authority, that our author possesses a private fortune so large, as to justify our rulers, in not having embraced a more early opportunity of rewarding the loyalty of their friend and advocate.

A. R.

#### GOVERNMENT.

ART. VIII. *De la Pensée du Gouvernement, &c.*—*An Idea of Government*, by Bertrand Barrère, Ex-Deputy of the Department of the Higher Pyrenees to the National Convention. 8vo. 223 pages. Price 4s. Printed originally at Geneva, and reprinted in Paris and London. De Boffe. 1797.

THE author of this work has acted a conspicuous part during the present revolution. After appearing as a legislator, and a member of the executive government, he now comes forward in the character of an author. Mr. B. tells us in the introduction, that the republican regimen of France is composed of three different ideas; the first, that of *invention*, for the proposing of such laws as the council of five hundred deems proper; the second, that of *examination*, for the adoption of such decrees as may be thought good, useful, or necessary by the council of ancients; and the third, that of *execution*,

tion, for the uniform enforcement of them throughout the whole extent of the commonwealth. The sole end of all these regulations is the maintenance of public liberty by means of the laws: their result also is one and the same; the happiness of the people, the safety of the state, the power of the law, the liberty of the citizen, the maintenance of territorial, commercial, and all other kinds of property.

The executive directory is said to be in the machine of government, what the main-spring is in a watch. After a violent revolution, and a long period of civil discord, a powerful and vigorous government is necessary, in order to protect the constitution: it is like Moses elevating the brazen serpent in the midst of the hebrew camp.

This institution is here vaunted as superiour to the two kings of Sparta, the two consuls of Rome, the president of a congress, the doge of a senate, or the stadtholder of the states-general: it alone is sufficient, we are told, for the support of the republic, the sustaining of the representative system, and the progress of the social art.

'If it were possible,' adds Mr. B., 'to discover a species of executive power, which was neither hereditary, nor for life; which was neither subject to infancy, nor decrepitude, nor regency, nor minority; which possessed neither the turbulence of youth, nor the ambition of manhood, nor the nullity of age; which was not liable to the variations or caprices of a single head, but which joined connection and unity with numbers; this assuredly would become the best executive body, that the human mind could organize, in order to govern an immense and enlightened nation.'

After this compliment to the theoretical perfection of the new code, Mr. B. next treats of the constitution; and while he praises it, he does not forget to mention the mighty and novel attempt of making the laws to be observed by thirty millions of men, and of watching over the safety of persons and property throughout the whole extent of thirty thousand square leagues of territory.

While treating of the armies, the author observes, that, 'if time be necessary to sanction the efforts of genius, victory is still more so, to sanction the establishment of a great republic, which is an idea inspired by the genius of liberty. If the republicans were vanquished, so odious is liberty to the kings their enemies, that they would appear criminal in their eyes: the latter must therefore be beaten into admiration.' He here also pays a great compliment to the troops, for he asserts, that at several different periods liberty was only to be found on the frontiers, and that the republic herself had taken refuge in the armies.

The marine is the next great object that engages his attention; and without a large naval establishment he considers it as impossible, to defend 350 leagues of coast, to possess colonies in the East and West Indies, and above all, 'to carry into effect a navigation-act, which would excite the imitation of other nations, and enable them to conquer the liberty of the ocean.'

'The marine,' adds he, 'has given the universe to Europe, and Europe to England. The constant endeavour during every war, on the part of the english, has been to ruin our commerce, internal and external,



external, and to lay waste our colonies. This ambitious attempt has been fully executed during the present contest. It belongs to the republican government to repair these national losses; this can only be effected by the regeneration of the marine.

'The naval establishments of Europe commenced in the sixteenth century; and in the course of the last hundred years the marine has attained the highest pitch of glory. It has accordingly produced tyrants, for it has created an universal monarchy of the ocean, which will cease as soon as enfranchised France shall possess a navy, and, associating it with those of Holland and Spain, shall make the other powers of Europe conscious of the extent of their respective rights, and the facility of resuming possession of them, by the combination of their strength. The english, at this day, are on the *sea*, what the romans were formerly on *land*, when they were overturned and annihilated by barbarous nations.'

In Chap. x, which treats of the *colonies*, the author terms the decree of the 16th pluviose of the 2d year, which abolishes the slavery of the negroes, "a stipulation in favour of the human race." He owns, that the sudden and unpremeditated enfranchisement of that devoted race has been of great disservice to commerce: 'but the law of nature precedes all other laws whatever.'

The most eloquent part of this work is that which respects the liberty of the press. We shall accordingly conclude this article with a short extract from Chap. xvi.

"The laws!" exclaims a philosophical and political historian\*, "the laws! in order to save a nation from ruin: and the liberty of the press! in order to save the laws." Six years of revolution have consecrated this maxim; but it is unceasingly attacked. It ought, on the other hand, to be unceasingly repeated and developed, that the people may not be deceived, or the legislature surprised. The liberty of the press is the mother of all the other liberties, the preservative from all oppressions, the conservator of the public spirit, the soul of the commonwealth, and the voice that announces the opinion of the people. The liberty of the press snatches away innocence from the executioner, liberty from the usurper, the mask from hypocrites, the dangerous influence arising from reputation, and the vain popularity sought for by the ambitious. It is the Medusa's head, which sooner or later will affright and annihilate all classes of conspirators against the national independence and the rights of citizenship. Do you wish for an eye that watches at all times the legislators, the directory, the ministers, the judges, the administrators, the magistrates of the people, and the commissaries of the government? Are you in want of an arm to arrest and denounce abuses of all kinds, and tyranny of every hue?—All these are effected by the liberty of the press. This it is which demolishes bastilles and throws down thrones; this it is that sits incessantly on their ruined foundations, to prevent their being rebuilt; this it is that silently files away the chains of a people, the sword of despots, and the falchion of a dictator. There is no medium between the liberty of the press, and the inquisition of the press.' s.

\* Raynal, Hist. Phil. & Pol. tome dernier.'



ART. IX. *The Four Ages; together with Essays on various Subjects.*  
By William Jackson, of Exeter. 8vo. 454 pages. Price 8s.  
in Boards. Cadell and Davies. 1798.

THIS is not the first time, that we have been gratified by the *compositions* of Mr. Jackson; our ear has often been charmed with the united melody and harmony of his music, and it is by no means surprising, that the same correctness and simplicity of taste, which he has so frequently evinced in one of the sister arts, should be displayed in his observations on the others. In the present volume a variety of topics, the greater part of them in some degree connected with polite literature, is treated of in a lively, elegant, and ingenious manner; from which very circumstance, we have more than once felt angry with our author, that he has skimmed over the surface of his subject with so fleet a wing: that he has thrown out hints for inquiry to be pursued by his reader, when he has afforded so good ground to conjecture, that he could have pursued them himself with ability and success. It should be mentioned, however, that in a sort of apologetic advertisement it is stated, that the greater part of these essays should be considered as *sketches* for a periodical publication, and that in consequence they are written on familiar subjects, and treated in a familiar manner.

In the 'Four Ages' our author inverts the order, established by the ancients\*, of their succession, and contends—to the utter discredit of old Saturn's reign! that no *Golden Age* has yet existed, but in the imagination of poets. We certainly feel no disposition to dispute the opinion, and venture to assure our author, that he will not experience such contradiction as he imagines: the Golden Age has certainly had but an Utopian existence; and such a one, as the ancients imagined, is not very likely to have any other. Fields of unfading verdure, indeed, may 'live in description, and look green in song;' and much are we indebted to the poets, whose fairy hands have created such delightful regions; where, for the moment, unmindful of that real wretchedness, which the tyrant rulers of mankind have inflicted on their fellow creatures, we may contemplate, in regions of perennial spring, the charms of plenty and of peace.

Mr. J. has stated what he conceives to be the proper characteristics of the four ages in society, and has illustrated his observations by the relative civilization of various nations. From these characteristics it is decided, that we are advanced to the *Silver age*, and 'the glorious character,' says our author, page 44, 'of the present times, at least in England, is, that we are no longer persecuted for mere opinions, let them be ever so absurd, if they do not affect the good of society.' Alas! we could here bring many a stubborn fact in opposition: the memory of expatriated Priestly is of no evanescent nature; what but the *iron* hand of ignorance and ferocity could be lifted in persecution of such a character? one of the first of

\* We have some recollection of having seen this order inverted by a former writer, whose name does not occur.

philosophers, one of the best and most amiable of men! The good of society? yes: and this 'good of society' has always been a plea for oppression: how many a martyr has suffered at the stake for the good of society? how many an unfriended female *convicted* of witchcraft has swung on a gibbet, for the good of society? and for what purpose are the various legal disabilities of catholic and protestant dissenters retained in our code, but the good of society? But, as it is justly observed by our author, since 'there is no determinate point, in which one age ends and another begins;' and since, for a certain period, each must bear a mixed character; let us candidly presume, that these *brazen* features of our own time will soon wear away and soften into *silver*.

Many writers have argued, that the movement of civilization is rotatory; and, in favour of their hypothesis, have made very frequent and specious appeals to history, in order to attest the progress of human societies from barbarism to refinement, and the regular reversion of them from refinement to their primitive barbarity. If we cast our eyes over almost any of the african, asiatic, or european communities, we shall immediately be struck with the force of the appeal: but it should be recollected, that paper was not invented till the eleventh century, and printing not till the fifteenth; so degenerate was the state of literature during the middle ages, that many charters were granted by persons in the highest ranks, who affixed the sign of the cross, because they could not write their own name! at present there is scarcely a tradesman or mechanic in the kingdom, who is not able to read and write with fluency, and who has not the opportunity of so doing, from the multiplicity of copies which may and will be taken of every work of merit and importance. This circumstance alone would be a sufficient guarantee against the retrogression to a state of ignorance and barbarism, but there are many others, which however it is not incumbent on us to enumerate.

Mr. J. holds the same opinion with us respecting our progress to perfection; and as the poets formed a Golden Age, according to their imagination of what is good or desirable, he has, in his turn, imagined 'what will be the situation of mankind, when genius, corrected by science, and assisted by reason and virtue, shall have produced that improvement of society, to which it naturally aspires—this is the millennium of philosophy.'

We have dwelt so long on this portion of the present volume, that concerning the other essays we can only repeat the general encomium which we passed in the beginning of the article: on perusing the 'Venetian, French Captain, and Priest,' it concerned us, that our author should have lowered himself to the level of those ignorant and illiberal calumniators, who have represented the french as a nation of atheists: we make no remark on the subject, but simply state, that the charge is notoriously false.

The present volume abounds in passages which would make entertaining extracts: perhaps few would be more generally interesting than the following, in which are exhibited the traits of character, that distinguished a very superiour mind.



P. 147.—‘*The Character of Gainsborough.*—In the early part of my life I became acquainted with Thomas Gainsborough the painter; and as his character was, perhaps, better known to me than to any other person, I will endeavour to divest myself of every partiality, and speak of him as he really was. I am the rather induced to this, by seeing accounts of him and his works given by people who were unacquainted with either, and, consequently, have been mistaken in both.

‘Gainsborough’s profession was painting, and music was his amusement—yet, there were times when music seemed to be his employment, and painting his diversion. As his skill in music has been celebrated, I will, before I speak of him as a painter, mention what degree of merit he possessed as a musician.

‘When I first knew him he lived at Bath, where Giardini had been exhibiting his *then* unrivalled powers on the violin. His excellent performance made Gainsborough enamoured of that instrument; and conceiving, like the servant maid in the Spectator, that the music lay in the fiddle, he was frantic until he possessed the *very* instrument which had given him so much pleasure—but seemed much surprized that the music of it remained behind with Giardini!

‘He had scarcely recovered this shock (for it was a great one to him) when he heard Abel on the viol-di-gamba. The violin was hung on the willow—Abel’s viol-di-gamba was purchased, and the house resounded with melodious thirds and fifths from “morn to dewy eve!” Many an adagio and many a minuet were begun, but none completed—this was wonderful, as it was Abel’s *own* instrument, and therefore *ought* to have produced Abel’s own music!

‘Fortunately, my friend’s passion had now a fresh object—Fischer’s hautboy—but I do not recollect that he deprived Fischer of his instrument: and though he procured a hautboy, I never heard him make the least attempt on it. Probably his ear was too delicate to bear the disagreeable sounds which necessarily attend the first beginnings on a wind-instrument. He seemed to content himself with what he heard in public, and getting Fischer to play to him in private—not on the hautboy, but the violin—but this was a profound secret, for Fischer knew that his reputation was in danger if he pretended to excel on two instruments\*.

‘The next time I saw Gainsborough it was in the character of King David. He had heard a harper at Bath—the performer was soon left harpleß—and now Fischer, Abel, and Giardini were all forgotten—there was nothing like chords and arpeggios! He really stuck to the harp long enough to play several airs with variations, and, in a little time, would nearly have exhausted all the pieces usually performed on an instrument incapable of modulation, (this was not a pedal-harp) when another visit from Abel brought him back to the viol-di-gamba.

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‘\* It was at this time that I heard Fischer play a solo on the violin, and accompany himself on the same instrument—the air of the solo was executed with the bow, and the accompaniment *pizzicato* with the unemployed fingers of his left hand.’

‘He



‘ He now saw the imperfection of sudden sounds that instantly die away—if you wanted a *staccato*, it was to be had by a proper management of the bow, and you might also have notes as long as you please. The viol-di-gamba is the only instrument, and Abel the prince of musicians!

‘ This, and occasionally a little flirtation with the fiddle, continued some years; when, as ill luck would have it, he heard Crofdill—but, by some irregularity of conduct, for which I cannot account, he neither took up, nor bought, the violoncello. All his passion for the bass was vented in descriptions of Crofdill’s tone and bowing, which was rapturous and enthusiastic to the last degree.

‘ More years now passed away, when upon seeing a theorbo in a picture of Vandyke’s; he concluded (perhaps, because it was finely painted) that the theorbo must be a fine instrument. He recollected to have heard of a german professor, who, though no more, I shall forbear to name—ascended *per varios gradus* to his garret, where we found him at dinner upon a roasted apple, and smoking a pipe—\* \* \* says he, I am come to buy your lute—

“ To pay my lute!”

‘ Yes—come, name your price, and here is your money.

“ I cannot shell my lute!”

‘ No, not for a guinea or two, but by G—— you must sell it.

“ May lute ish wert much monnay! it ish wert ten guinea.”

‘ That it is—see, here is the money.

“ Well—if I musht—but you will not take it away yourself?”

‘ Yes, yes—good bye \* \* \*

‘ (After he had gone down he came up again)

‘ \* \* \* I have done but half my errand—What is your lute worth, if I have not your book?

“ Whad poog, mairhter Cainsporogh?”

‘ Why, the book of airs you have composed for the lute.

“ Ah, py cot, I can never part wit my poog!”

‘ Poh! you can make another at any time—this is the book I mean (putting it in his pocket)

“ Ah, py cot, I cannot”—

‘ Come, come, here’s another ten guineas for your book—so, once more, good day t’ye—(descends again, and again comes up) But what use is your book to me, if I don’t understand it?—and your lute—you may take it again, if you won’t teach me to play on it—Come home with me, and give me my first lesson—

“ I will come to marrow.”

‘ You must come now.

“ I musht tress myself.”

‘ For what? You are the best figure I have seen to day—

“ Ay musht be shave”—

‘ I honour your beard!

“ Ay musht bud on my wik”—

‘ D—n your wig! your cap and beard become you; do you think if Vandyke was to paint you he’d let you be shaved?—

‘ In this manner he frittered away his musical talents; and though possessed of ear, taste, and genius, he never had application enough to learn his notes. He scorned to take the first step, the

second was of course out of his reach; and the summit became unattainable.

As a painter, his abilities may be considered in three different departments.

Portrait,

Landscape, and

Groups of Figures—to which must be added his Drawings.

To take these in the abovementioned order.

The first consideration in a portrait, especially to the purchaser, is, that it be a perfect likeness of the sitter—in this respect, his skill was unrivalled—the next point is, that it is a good picture—here, he has as often failed as succeeded. He failed by affecting a thin watshy colouring, and a hatching style of peneilling—but when, from accident or choice, he painted in the manly substantial style of Vandyke, he was very little, if at all, his inferior. It shews a great defect in judgment, to be from choice, wrong, when we know what is right. Perhaps, his best portrait is that known among the painters by the name of the *Blue-boy*—it was in the possession of Mr. Buttall, near Newport-market.

There are three different æras in his landscapes—his first manner was an imitation of Ruysdael, with more various colouring—the second, was an extravagant looseness of pencilling; which, though reprehensible, none but a great master can possess—his third manner, was a solid firm style of touch.

At this last period he possessed his greatest powers, and was (what every painter is at some time or other) fond of varnish. This produced the usual effects—improved the picture for two or three months; then ruined it for ever! With all his excellence in this branch of the art, he was a great mannerist—but the worst of his pictures have a value, from the facility of execution—which excellence I shall again mention.

His groups of figures are, for the most part, very pleasing, though unnatural—for a town-girl, with her cloaths in rags, is not a ragged country-girl. Notwithstanding this remark, there are numberless instances of his groups at the door of a cottage, or by a fire in a wood, &c. that are so pleasing as to disarm criticism. He sometimes (like Murillo) gave interest to a single figure—his shepherd's boy, woodman, girl and pigs, are equal to the best pictures on such subjects—his fighting-dogs, girl warming herself, and some others, shew his great powers in this style of painting. The very distinguished rank the girl and pigs held at Mr. Calonne's sale, in company with some of the best pictures of the best masters, will fully justify a commendation which might else seem extravagant.

If I were to rest his reputation upon one point, it should be on his drawings. No man ever possessed methods so various in producing effect, and all excellent—his watshy, hatching style, was here in its proper element. The subject which is scarce enough for a picture, is sufficient for a drawing, and the hasty loose handling, which in painting is poor, is rich in a transparent wash of bistre and indian ink. Perhaps the quickest effects ever produced, were in some of his drawings—and this leads me to take up again his facility of execution,

Many



• Many of his pictures have no other merit than this facility; and yet, having it, are undoubtedly valuable. His drawings almost rest on this quality alone for their value; but possessing it in an eminent degree (and as no drawing can have any merit where it is wanting) his works, therefore, in this branch of the art, approach nearer to perfection than his paintings.

• If the term *facility* explain not itself; instead of a definition, I will illustrate it.

• Should a performer of middling execution on the violin, contrive to get through his piece, the most that can be said, is, that he has not failed in his attempt. Should Cramer perform the same music, it would be so much within his powers, that it would be executed with ease. Now, the superiority of pleasure, which arises from the execution of a Cramer, is enjoyed from the facility of a Gainsborough. A poor piece performed by one, or a poor subject taken by the other, give more pleasure by the *manner* in which they are treated, than a good piece of music, and a sublime subject in the hands of artists that have not the means by which effects are produced, *in subjection to them*. To a good painter or musician this illustration was needless; and yet, by them *only*, perhaps, it will be felt and understood.

• By way of addition to this sketch of Gainsborough, let me mention a few miscellaneous particulars.

• He had no relish for historical painting—he never sold, but always gave away his drawings; commonly to persons who were perfectly ignorant of their value\*. He hated the harpsichord and the pianoforte. He disliked singing, particularly in parts. He detested reading; but was so like Sterne in his letters, that, if it were not for an originality that could be copied from no one, it might be supposed that he had formed his style upon a close imitation of that author. He had as much pleasure in looking at a violin as in hearing it—I have seen him for many minutes surveying, in silence, the perfections of an instrument, from the just proportion of the model, and beauty of the workmanship.

• His conversation was sprightly, but licentious—his favourite subjects were music and painting, which he treated in a manner peculiarly his own. The common topics, or any of a superior cast, he thoroughly hated, and always interrupted by some stroke of wit or humour.

• The indiscriminate admirers of my late friend will consider this sketch of his character as far beneath his merit; but it must be remembered, that my wish was not to make it perfect, but just. The same principle obliges me to add—that as to his common acquaintance he was sprightly and agreeable, so to his intimate friends he was sincere and honest, and that his heart was always alive to every feeling of honour and generosity.

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• • He presented twenty drawings to a lady, who pasted them to the wainscot of her dressing-room. Sometime after she left the house: the drawings, of course, become the temporary property of every tenant.



‘He died with this expression—“We are all going to heaven, and Vandyke is of the party”—Strongly expressive of a good heart, a quiet conscience, and a love for his profession, which only left him with his life.’

The subjects treated in this volume are the following. The Four Ages. On Gothic Architecture. The middle Way not always best. The Villa. On Wit. An Indian Tale. Different Uses of Reading and Conversation. Character of Gainsborough. Character of Sir Joshua Reynolds. Whether Genius be born or acquired. The Venetian, French Captain, and Priest. The Bard. The Ghost. On Gentlemen-Artists. Coincidences. On Literary Thievery. On Pope’s Epitaphs. The Hermit. The restraint of Society. On Rhyme. Odd Numbers. Late. Use of Accumulation. On a Reform of Parliament. Authors should not exceed common Judgment. On the joining Poetry with Music. Almanacks. Authors improperly paired. The Cup-bearer, an Indian Tale. On Beauty. An Odd Character. Something beyond us, necessary. Influence of Appellations. On Executions. A proper Length necessary for Musical and Literary Productions. Aboulhamed and the Brahmin. On Antiquities. On Derivation. On Climate. On Poetical and Musical Ear. On Mental and Corporeal Pleasure. D. M. D.

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MEDICINE.

ART. X. *A medical Glossary: in which the Words in the various Branches of Medicine are deduced from their original Languages; properly accented, and explained.* By W. Turton, M. D. 4to. 622 pages. Price 1l. 1s. in boards. Johnson. 1797.

WHATEVER has a tendency to lessen the labour or facilitate the acquisition of the knowledge of a difficult science, must be, in some degree, entitled to attention. These are professedly the objects of the glossary before us, which appears to have been compiled with much judgement, industry, and research. We could have wished, however, that the very able and ingenious author had taken a little more latitude in some of his descriptions, and been rather more full in his explanations of some of the terms. To the learned and curious a work of this kind must prove highly valuable, as the sources from which the various terms and idioms in medical language are drawn are extremely numerous and complicated. The student may also derive great advantage from the present publication, as the peculiar and appropriate meanings of the different technical terms of his profession may be easily acquired by turning to it.

In respect to the exposition of terms, and the general execution of the undertaking, the author thus expresses himself:

Pref. p. i.—‘I have, brought together such as usage has fixed, or learned men have adopted, and have contented myself with deducing them from their proper roots, determining their pronunciation, and simply defining them.

‘The unmeaning jargon of Paracelsus and his followers I have purposely omitted, and have been solicitous to preserve those compound

pound words used by the physicians of the greek school, most or all of which are scattered about in the writings of succeeding ages.'

After this, we need only furnish the reader with a specimen of the manner in which the performance is attempted.

- P. 216.—**COLLYRIUM**, (κολυριον, from κωλυω to restrain, παρα το κωλυειν τον ρευ, because it stops the defluxion. زهر kolera, arab.) An application to the eyes.
- **COLOBOMA**. See COLLOBOMA.
- **COLOCA'SIA** (κολοκασια, from κολος food, and καζω to adorn.) The egyptian bean, named from its use as a food, and the custom of weaving its flowers into wreaths.
- **COLOCYNTHIS** (κολοκυνθις, from κωλον the colon, and κινω to move, because of its great purging powers.) The bitter purging apple.
- **COLON** (κωλον, quasi κοilon, from κοιλος hollow.) The first of the large intestines is so called from its capacity; or from its being generally found empty and full of wind in dissection.
- **COLOPHONIA** (Κολοφωνα, the city whence it was first brought.) Black resin. Resin whose volatile and humid parts are evaporated.
- **COLOQUI'NTEDA**. The same as COLOCYNTHIS.
- **COLOR** (from colo to adorn.) Colour. The outward appearance of any thing. Diseases are often discerned and distinguished by the colour of the skin, fæces, urine, &c.
- **COLORA'TIO** (from coloro to colour.) The act of tinging, or giving a particular colour to any thing.
- **COLORA'TUS** (from color colour.) In botany, it means varying from its usual colour, as when leaves which ought to be green are of any other colour.
- **COLÓSTRUM** (κολοστρον, from κολος food, or from κολλωμαι to agglutinate.) The first milk of an animal after parturition. It is so called, either because it is the first food of the young, or from its being at that time peculiarly glutinous.
- **COLÓTES** (κωλωτης.) A kind of lizard.
- **COLOTOIDES** (κωλωτοειδης, from κωλωτης a lizard, and ειδος a likeness.) Variegated like the skin of a lizard. It is applied to the excrements when of different colours.
- **CÓLPOS** (κολπος.) The vagina, or *cavitas muliebris*. Also an ulcer called a sinus.
- **COLPOCE'LE** (κολποκυλη, from κολπος the vagina, and κυλη a tumour.) A tumour or hernia seated in the vagina.
- **COLPOPTÓSIS** (κολποπτωσις, from κολπος the vagina, and πιπτω to fall down.) A bearing or falling down of the vagina.
- **CÓLUBER** (*quod colat umbram*, because it delights in shade.) A serpent living in the shade of woods.
- **COLUBRI'NA** (from coluber a snake.) The herb snakeweed; so called from the snake-like contortions of its roots.
- **COLUBRI'NUM** (from coluber a snake.) The snakeweed-tree.
- **COLU'MBA** (from κολυμβω to swim.) The pigeon or dove; so named from its swimming motion in the air.
- **COLUMBI'NA** (from columba a pigeon.) The herb columbine, or flat vervain, and named from the likeness of its leaves to a pigeon with extended wings.
- **COLU'MBO** (a town in the island of Ceylon, whence Europe is supplied with it.) A bitter root of great medical virtues.\*

The author has chiefly derived his authorities from the most approved sources, such as Blanchard, Castellus, Minshew, Schindler, and Gollius. He concludes his preface by modestly observing,

Pref. p. ii.—‘That such a work is useful will perhaps be more readily admitted than that it has been usefully executed; but he that has laboured long in attempting to remove the obstructions to science, is not willing to add despondence to his difficulties, and to believe that he has laboured in vain.’

ART. XI. *The Art of prolonging Life.* By Christopher William Hufeland, M.D. Public Lecturer on Medicine at Jena. Translated from the German. In two Volumes. 8vo. 605 pages. Price 10s. in boards. Bell. 1797.

Nothing can surely be more interesting to man, than the knowledge by which his existence may be lengthened, and rendered more happy. Long life has indeed constantly been the principal object and wish of mankind; but the plans and directions, that have hitherto been proposed for its accomplishment, have been, in many respects, confused and contradictory. The *macrobiotic* art of prolonging life must not, however, be confounded with that of medicine, it is materially different both in its objects, means, and limits.

‘The object of the medical art,’ says doctor H. Preface, page viii. ‘is health; that of the macrobiotic, long life. The means employed in the medical art are regulated according to the present state of the body and its variations; those of the macrobiotic, by general principles. In the first it is sufficient if one is able to restore that health which has been lost; but no person thinks of enquiring, whether, by the means used for that purpose, life, upon the whole, will be lengthened or shortened; and the latter is often the case in many methods employed in medicine. The medical art must consider every disease as an evil which cannot be too soon expelled; the macrobiotic, on the other hand, shews that many diseases may be the means of prolonging life. The medical art endeavors, by corroborative and other remedies, to elevate mankind to the highest degree of strength and physical perfection; while the macrobiotic proves that here even there is a maximum, and that strengthening, carried too far, may tend to accelerate life, and, consequently, to shorten its duration. The practical part of medicine, therefore, in regard to the macrobiotic art, is to be considered only as an auxiliary science which teaches us how to know diseases, the enemies of life, and how to prevent and expel them; but which, however, must itself be subordinate to the higher laws of the latter.’

The intention of the author in executing this important task is, by laying down just principles respecting the *essence* and *wants* of the complicated operation of life, and by attending to observations made from experience, to discover the circumstances under which the process can be hastened and shortened, or retarded and prolonged.

The work is therefore not merely designed for the use of the physician, but the public in general; and seems to be deserving of their attention, both on account of the novelty and justness of much of the instruction which it conveys.

In the first chapter, the author endeavours to trace the progressive attempts to prolong human life, from the absurd and ignorant trials of



of the middle ages, to the period of the daring impositions of Mesmer. To many of the schemes held out in this long and dark period doctor H. appears to have given more importance than they deserved. Scarcely any of them seem to us, to have been founded on just principles. In the following chapter, the author has described, in a happy and popular way, the nature, effects, and laws of the vital principle, or power; but without introducing any thing new.

His definition and explanation of life is this: p. 62.

\* Life, in an organized being, means the free active state of the before-mentioned power, and the activity and efficacy of the organs inseparably connected with it. The vital power, therefore, is only capacity; life itself, action. Every life, consequently, is a continued operation of the efficiency of the power and of organic exertion. A continual consumption of the power and of the organs is necessarily the immediate consequence of this process; and, on that account, an incessant renovation of both is requisite in order that life may be supported. The process of life may then be considered as a continued process of consumption; and its essence may be defined an uninterrupted wasting and reparation of ourselves. Life has been already often compared to a flame; and indeed the operation in both is the same. Destructive and creative powers are engaged, with never-ceasing activity, in a continual struggle within us; and every moment of our existence is a singular mixture of annihilation and new creation. As long as the vital power retains its freshness and energy, the living plastic powers will have the superiority, and afford it protection in this contest: the body will also increase and approach nearer to perfection. By little and little they will balance each other, and, the consumption becoming equal to the renovation, the body will at length decrease. At last, the vital power being lessened, and the organs worn out, the consumption will begin to exceed the renovation; and decay, degradation, and, in the end, a total dissolution will unavoidably follow. This is universally the case. Every created being passes through three periods; that of its growth, that of its being stationary, and that of its decline.

And its duration he supposes to depend on the following circumstances: p. 64.

1. On the quantity of the vital power which resides in the being. A greater supply of the vital power will naturally last much longer, and be later consumed, than a smaller. Now we know, from what has been before said, that the vital power has a greater affinity to some bodies, and to others a less; that it abounds much more in some than in others; and that many external causes tend to weaken it, and many to nourish it. This, therefore, gives us the first and most important ground of the difference in the duration of life.

2. But, besides the vital power, the organs also are consumed and wasted by living; and, consequently, a total consumption must take place later in a body, the organs of which are strong, than in one of a delicate structure more liable to dissolution. Besides, the operation of life itself requires the continual agency of certain organs, which we therefore call the vital organs. If these be diseased, or unfit for use, life cannot continue. A certain firmness of organization, and a proper condition of the vital organs, form the second ground on which the duration of life depends.

‘ 3. The process of consumption may be carried on more slowly, or more rapidly; and, consequently, the duration of it, or what we call life, even when the powers and organs are perfectly alike, will be longer or shorter in proportion to the quickness or slowness of the operation; just as a candle lighted at both ends at the same time burns twice as fast as one lighted in the usual manner, or as a light in dephlogisticated air is consumed ten times faster than one of the same kind in common air, because by that medium the process of consumption is increased and accelerated in a tenfold proportion. This affords the third ground of difference in the duration of life.

‘ 4. As renovation of what is lost and continual regeneration are the principal means of counteracting the consumption, those bodies which internally and externally have the best means of regenerating themselves with the most ease, and in the greatest perfection, will naturally be of longer duration than those which are destitute of that advantage.

‘ In short, the duration of life in a being will be proportioned to the innate quantity of vital power, the greater or less firmness of its organs, the speedier or slower consumption, and perfect or imperfect restoration. All ideas on the prolongation of life, as well as all the means which have been or may be proposed on that subject, can be brought under these four classes, and be examined upon these principles.’

On these grounds doctor H. makes several important, and probably just conclusions; and answers some questions, that have not in general been well understood. But some late physiologists in this country have gone much further on the subject, which doctor H. is here considering.

In explanation of the principles that have been just advanced, various facts and conclusions, drawn from experience, in regard to vegetable life, are presented to the consideration of the reader. It appears to be the opinion of this writer, that the duration of animal, as well as vegetable life, principally depends on the strength of the action or energy of the organs, or on what he terms the *intensive life*. Therefore the less *intensive* the life of any being is, the longer will be its duration.

But though this be the case, there are many other circumstances to be taken into the account, which are fully explained as the author proceeds in this inquiry.

From tracing the application of the principles concerning the extension of life among animals, the author finds, that ‘ the more imperfect the life of a being is, it will be so much the more lasting. And on the contrary, the tenderer, finer, and more complex the organization, and the more perfect the life is, it will be of so much the less duration.’

Another rule also is that—*Quod cito fit, cito perit*. And there are many more equally interesting, and which deserve the examination of the philosophical reader.

We now come to examples drawn from the history of man. In this curious review, the author first presents to us the most extraordinary instances of old age among mankind; and then attempts to show in what climate, under what favourable circumstances, in what condition, and what state of body and mind, man has attained to the highest



highest degree of longevity. The conclusions, at which doctor H. arrives in this part of his labour, are numerous and interesting. He finds it a point fully confirmed by the experience of every age, that *omnia mediocria ad vitam prolongandam sunt utilia.*

In the following extract, the reader will find the author's idea of the nature of human life: P. 183.

'The life of man, considered in a physical view, is nothing else than an incessant ceasing and being; a continual change of destruction and restoration; an everlasting contest of chemical, decomposing powers, with all the combining and creative vital powers. New component parts are every moment collected from the whole of nature that surrounds us; called to life from an inanimate state, and transferred from the chemical to the organic living world; and from these heterogeneous particles the plastic vital power produces a new uniform mass, which, in every point, is stamped with the character of life. But, in the same unceasing manner, the exhausted, worn-out and corrupted component parts, when their combination is dissolved, become subject again to the mechanical and chemical powers, which are in continual contest with the living powers; return from the organic to the chemical world; and again become a part of inanimate nature, in general, from which they had been separated for a short time. This uninterrupted business is the work of the vital power ever active within us; and is, consequently, attended with an excessive exertion of that power, which is an important part of vital operation. Life, therefore, is a continual receiving, appropriation, and giving back; an incessant mixture of death and new creation.

'What then, in a common sense, we call the life of a creature, considered as a representation, is nothing else than a mere phenomenon, which has nothing peculiar or self-subsistent but the active spiritual power which forms the grounds of it, and which binds and regulates the whole. All the rest is only appearance; a grand spectacle continued, where the thing represented does not remain the same a moment, but is incessantly changing—where the whole duration, form and figure of the representation depend, in a particular manner, on the matter employed, which is always varying, and on the manner in which it is used; and the whole phenomenon can exist no longer than the continued influx from without, which supplies nourishment for the process—Its analogy with a flame is, therefore, very great; only that the latter is merely a chemical, and life a chemico-animal process—a chemico-animal flame.'

The reasonings of Dr. H. on the length of the life of man, and the influence of the soul upon it, are not, we must confess, the most clear. They are, indeed, scarcely consistent with conclusions, that have been made in preceding parts of the work. The subject has many difficulties, and but few of them are removed by the observations which are here introduced. The following is our author's delineation of a person destined for long life: P. 231.

'He has a proper and well-proportioned stature, without, however, being too tall. He is rather of the middle-size, and somewhat thick-set. His complexion is not too florid: at any rate, too much ruddiness in youth is seldom a sign of longevity. His hair approaches rather to the fair than the black; his skin is strong, but not rough. His head is not too big; he has large veins at the extremities, and



his shoulders are rather round than flat. His neck is not too long; his belly does not project; and his hands are large, but not too deeply cleft. His foot is rather thick than long; and his legs are firm and round. He has also a broad arched chest; a strong voice, and the faculty of retaining his breath for a long time without difficulty. In general, there is a complete harmony in all his parts. His senses are good, but not too delicate; his pulse is slow and regular.

His stomach is excellent, his appetite good, and his digestion easy. The joys of the table are to him of importance; they tune his mind to serenity, and his soul partakes in the pleasure which they communicate. He does not eat merely for the sake of eating; but each meal is an hour of daily festivity; a kind of delight attended with this advantage, in regard to others, that it does not make him poorer, but richer. He eats slowly, and has not too much thirst. Too great thirst is always a sign of rapid self-consumption.

In general, he is serene, loquacious, active, susceptible of joy, love, and hope; but insensible to the impressions of hatred, anger and avarice. His passions never become too violent or destructive. If he ever gives way to anger, he experiences rather an useful glow of warmth, an artificial and gentle fever without an overflowing of the gall. He is fond also of employment, particularly calm meditation and agreeable speculations—is an optimist, a friend to nature and domestic felicity—has no thirst after honors and riches, and banishes all thoughts of tomorrow.

In the ninth chapter our author sums up the means of prolonging life. The ways in which this may be accomplished he asserts to be, first, by increasing the vital power itself; secondly, by hardening the organs; thirdly, by retarding vital consumption; fourthly, by facilitating and assisting restoration. The plans and methods that have been founded on these principles are afterwards minutely examined, and the advantages of each fully explained. This forms an interesting part of the work, and is in many respects judiciously handled.

The second volume contains practical hints and directions, founded on the principles that have been laid down above. But although the author has here gone into many elaborate inquiries, we cannot perceive, that he has thrown much additional light on the subject. It is, we believe, no new doctrine, that temperance and moderation are the safest guides to old age. This, however, is the doctrine, which our author has chiefly inculcated, and which he fully and diligently considers under two distinct heads: first, the guarding against the enemies of life, and those means that shorten it: and secondly, the knowledge and use of those means which tend to prolong it. Every thing, that has any tendency either to shorten or protract the period of human existence, is here carefully arranged and examined, but the reader will probably, in many instances, think, that the author is tediously minute, without suggesting new ideas.

In short, by exhibiting the art of prolonging life in a somewhat different point of view, and giving the materials of which it is composed some alteration of arrangement, the author has made the matter of his volumes frequently present an appearance of novelty, to which it has no solid claims. We are, however, very ready to admit, that there is a large portion of useful, and some new information in the work.

ART. XII. *A Lecture introductory to a Course of popular Instruction on the Constitution and Management of the human Body.* By T. Beddoes, M.D. 8vo. 72 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Bristol, Cottle; London, Johnson. 1797.

THAT prejudice and self-interest will, as long as they are able, endeavour to stem the tide of popular medical instruction, has been sufficiently evident on former occasions; but the necessity or utility of the thing is not the less obvious on that account. Some may here object too, that provincial situations are not suitable for the communication of general information on the subjects of medicine: this is not, however, of much importance, the fact will be proved by the result of the trial. Perseverance and talents can effect much, even under unfavourable circumstances; and it may turn out also, that the contrary is the truth. At any rate the design is laudable, and merits the notice of the public.

In the present lecture Dr. B., with his usual facility and happiness of manner, draws the attention of his hearers to various advantages and improvements, that may be expected from a well-directed course of public instruction on the science of medicine.

P. 18.—‘It is animating,’ says the doctor, ‘to think that we can move, secure from those arrows that flew unseen, and so often smote our ancestors. But above all our present attainments, I value a disposition which, if I mistake not, is arising in the public mind. This disposition is discoverable in the interest which treatises on the laws of life excite beyond the bounds of medical profession. It is most agreeably proved by the number of parents who devote themselves to the early care of children; a task, formerly devolved upon menials, or dependants but little higher in esteem. And if more evidence be required, it is furnished by the reception of our offers to gratify your desire of information, to the extent of our means.’

The circumstances that gave rise to the attempt, and the plan on which it is to be conducted, will be seen in the following passage, which serves the purpose of preface to the lecture:

ADV. P. i.—‘A practitioner in surgery accidentally informed me many months ago, that he was desirous of giving a course of anatomical lectures in Bristol. To furnish individuals with so much knowledge of themselves as should enable them to guard against habitual sickness, and a variety of serious disorders, had been long an object of contemplation with me. I therefore proposed that the course should be modelled according to this idea. I remarked, that a distinct exhibition of the larger lines of anatomy and physiology would be also the mode of instruction best adapted to young students in medicine; much observation of lectures having convinced me that extreme minuteness is only perplexing to beginners. This, joined to some other considerations, prevailed. The person in question has devoted much of his spare time to the providing of proper preparations, and he has associated in the undertaking a fellow practitioner, who possesses a valuable anatomical collection. For my own part, I shall contribute my utmost assistance to the design, in whatever way that assistance shall, upon reflection, appear most likely to be effectual. The purpose of the course will be to exhibit the structure of the human body, in a manner neither superficial



ficial nor tedious, to explain the functions of the parts as far as they have hitherto been investigated, to illustrate by specimens the principal deviations of these parts from their healthy conformation, and to intersperse such reflections as may be useful in physical education, and the whole conduct of life.'

ART. XIII. *Dissertation on the chemical and medical Properties of the Bristol Hotwell Water. To which are added, Practical Observations on the Prevention and Treatment of Pulmonary Consumption.* By A. Carrick, M.D. 8vo. 167 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Bristol, Yearsley; London, Cadell and Davies. 1797.

THIS dissertation appears to have different objects in view, such as the ascertaining of the chemical qualities of the Bristol hotwell water, it's medicinal properties, and it's use in the cure of pulmonary consumption; to which the author has added observations on the prevention and treatment of the disease. But none of these matters seem to us fully investigated.

The chemical analysis may be accurate so far as it goes, as the author seems to have bestowed some labour upon it; but it is much too confined to afford a complete or satisfactory view of the subject. The writer, from his few trials, finds, that this celebrated water holds in solution the following substances.

P. 50.—A wine gallon of 231 cubic inches of hotwell water, is impregnated with

Muriated magnesia . . . . .	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ grains
Muriated soda . . . . .	4
Vitriolated soda . . . . .	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Vitriolated lime . . . . .	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Carbonated lime . . . . .	13 $\frac{1}{2}$

Making together of solid matter . . 47 $\frac{1}{4}$  grains

Carbonic acid gas . . . . .	30 cubic inches
Respirable air . . . . .	3

Making together of gaseous fluids 33 cubic inches.'

After showing the difference in the contents of the hotwell water under different situations of the tide, Dr. C. takes notice of the lately-discovered warm spring at Clifton, called the Sion Spring. They both seem to contain ingredients of the same kind, but the author finds in the proportions of some of them a very striking difference, of which he has here inserted a tabular view.

Of the medicinal properties of this water the author appears to have a high opinion, though he does not attempt to solve it's mode of action: in short, he does little more than sound it's praise as a remedy in a few cases of disease. We do not think it so extraordinary as the doctor, that this diuretic water removes diabetes; it probably contains other properties, that may be full as useful in this disorder: nor do we agree with him, that the most efficacious remedies in this complaint belong to the class of diuretics. Late experiments



periments seem to have shown the contrary. The doctor has perhaps not examined this subject with much attention.

From the practical observations on the prevention and treatment of pulmonary consumption, no great utility is surely to be expected, after being told by the author himself, that little will be found in them 'to interest the physician, or to gratify the prevalent thirst for novelty in medicine.' Of what advantage can the dressing up of a few well known circumstances be even to the public, for whom the author professes to write? On the manner of clothing and dress custom has already, in a great measure, rendered the suggestions of Dr. C. unnecessary.

Consumption being supposed by our author *always* to arise from inflammation of the active kind, his remedies of course are of the debilitating class, and such, we believe, as have been commonly employed with this view.

P. 131.—'When,' says he, 'either from the inveterate nature of the disorder, or from having been so long neglected, the symptoms are not removed by the evacuant and antiphlogistic treatment, the bleeding ought to be repeated, either by the lancet, or by leeches, or cupping glasses applied as near as possible to the affected parts.'

'A blister kept open, or an issue or seton near the seat of the pain or stricture, will be found of the greatest efficacy in removing them. When the pain arises from an inflammation of the pleura only, these remedies will seldom fail to effect a cure, and even when the substance of the lungs is affected, great relief is constantly obtained from them. As it frequently happens when a blister has been kept open for a length of time upon a spot affected with pain, the inflammation is thereby removed to some other part of the chest, in such cases it will be necessary to change the site of the blister according to the shifting of the pain or stricture.'

'Internal remedies may be likewise employed with advantage in preventing or moderating the fever, and quieting the cough; such as neutral salts, antimonials, and sometimes opiates. Riding on horseback has been universally recommended in this, and indeed in every stage of this disorder; and undoubtedly, gentle exercise in fine weather cannot fail, in most cases, to have a good effect on the general health: but in the present case it ought to be very gentle indeed, or altogether avoided, as every thing which accelerates the motion of the blood cannot fail to be injurious. The utility of warm cloathing is obvious; and woollen ought to be immediately substituted for linen next the skin. Where the circumstances of the patient will permit, a journey or a voyage to a warmer climate, particularly for the winter season, is much to be inculcated; where that cannot be complied with, the most sheltered and eligible situation in England should be resorted to for winter quarters; and where neither of these can be accomplished, the greatest attention possible must be paid to the preservation of the body from cold and sudden chills, by means of warm cloathing, and avoiding exposure to night air, and damp and windy weather.'

By this plan the doctor thinks that nine-tenths of those cases that threaten consumption may be prevented.

The curative and palliative means are also considered, but we cannot see that Dr. C. has advanced one step further than those writers who have preceded him. *Pneumatic practice*, in his hands, does not appear to have been successful; but his trials in this way are not indeed sufficient to form any judgment upon. The work may, however, serve to be put into the hands of those who visit the Hotwells, which is perhaps the purpose for which it was designed.

ART. XIV. *An Account of the Yellow Fever, with a successful Method of Cure*: by James Bryce, Surgeon, late of the Bufbridge East-Indiaman. 8vo. 97 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Edinburgh, Creech; London, Robinsons. 1796.

Nothing can afford a more certain test of the utility of a particular mode of treatment, than that of its being adopted in different situations by different practitioners, without having the least knowledge of the practice, that had been followed by each other. This has happened in the treatment of the yellow-fever. Dr. Rush, in America, Dr. Chisholm, in the West-Indies, and our author in crossing the equator in the Atlantic ocean, have each of them found the disease to give way to nearly the same mode of management. The fever, that is here described, arose on board the Bufbridge East-Indiaman, in her voyage from England to Madras and Bengal, in the summer of 1792, about the time when she passed the equator, as has been just observed.

On the origin of the disease we have nothing satisfactory. Whether it proceeded from contagion brought on board, or generated in the ship, or from some other powerful and general cause, the author could not determine.

p. 18.—‘The general prevalence,’ says he, ‘of it among those on board, no doubt, seems to suggest contagion as the cause, yet the following observations are rather adverse to this opinion.

‘1. The length of time after our departure from England before the disease appeared, renders it improbable that contagion was thence derived.

‘2. Our having frequent intercourse with the crew of the Rose Indiaman, while the disease raged on board of us, without their being affected by it, makes its contagious nature, except under particular circumstances, questionable. And accordingly,

‘3. Although many convalescents were sent on shore at Madras, some of whom even suffered relapses during their stay there, the disease was not communicated to the inhabitants, nor did it afterwards appear on board, although, after we had been there only ten days, several new passengers proceeded with us to Bengal.

‘The other causes which might operate in producing this disease, are to be looked for in circumstances of diet, situation, and state of the atmosphere; and I confess, that it was to a combination of these that I was inclined to attribute chiefly the calamity which assailed us. A sudden change to a full diet of animal food, and that not of the most digestible kind, with an almost total deprivation of vegetables, in a hot climate, and where the people, especially the young recruits, were unable to take their wonted exercise, may well be supposed to prove pernicious to health.’



But from whatever source it came, the history of it's symptoms fully shows it to have been of the most pestilential kind; and to have approached, in some respects, to the nature of those fevers, that have lately made such havoc in Philadelphia and the West Indian islands.

The history of symptoms as detailed by Mr. Bryce is sufficiently full, and probably correct; but we could have wished, that he had been a little more attentive to the state of the different functions, as well as that of the pulse, for a day or two before the actual attack of the disorder. This would have afforded us a more correct idea of the nature of the fever, and have shown whether a state of considerable excitement actually occurs in the beginning of it or not. In such a climate as that in which the disease took place, it is reasonable to suppose, that a state of indirect debility must soon have been induced. And this seems indeed to have been the case from the early change of appearance in the disease, and the good effects of the author's mode of treatment, which, however, proceeded on these principles. 1st. The evacuation of all putrid offending matters from the alimentary canal. 2dly. The prevention of their re-accumulation. 3dly. The relief of urgent symptoms.

P. 51.—'In order,' says he, 'to accomplish this evacuation of the putrid matters, I found the most active of the purging medicines absolutely necessary; and that which to me appeared by far the most effectual for the purpose was calomel, either given by itself, or joined with other powerful cathartics.'

Surely if any putrid tendency had existed in the system, mercurial purges must have increased it, and consequently have rendered the disease more violent. But Mr. B.'s evacuations most probably operated in a very different way. By reducing the excessive excitement that induced the disease, they probably brought the body to it's natural state, and of course removed the fever. Of this the author does not appear to have had the least idea, as he tells us in the following passage, p. 52.—that he is 'anxious to recommend a more free use of calomel, than has hitherto been common even in warm climates, being fully convinced that the greatest part, if not all the acute diseases of those regions, proceed, either immediately or remotely, from accumulations of offending matters in the bowels. I have seen so many instances of the good effects of this medicine, in preventing and in curing the fevers of warm climates, without ever witnessing any bad effects from a liberal and judicious use of it, that I do think any error which is likely to arise from its use, must proceed from giving it in too small a quantity. This most valuable medicine seems also peculiarly adapted to diseases of warm climates, because, from its small bulk, it becomes difficult for the stomach to reject it, though vomiting should occur soon after taking it, a circumstance particularly troublesome in fevers of those regions: Its operation is also very immediate, and the violence of its action in the *primæ-viæ*, where either a degree of torpor of the intestines has taken place from the presence of putrid matters, or where the coats of the whole intestinal canal are so loaded with viscid matters, as to render the milder purgatives totally inactive, points it out as peculiarly eligible.'



As the author's view of the disease extended no farther than to the putrid condition of the contents of the intestinal tube, and their consequent tendency to produce that state in the system; we find his expectations chiefly directed to evacutory remedies, and his attempts to explain their mode of action chiefly hinging on the removal of those offending matters, which he supposes to be lodged in the bowels.

On the prophylactic treatment, the few directions that are laid down are judicious. It is here remarked, that the fever declined, as the ship approached a more temperate climate; but did not cease until her arrival at Madras, where there was a plentiful supply of fresh vegetables and fruits.

Though this fever in some of its features had a striking resemblance to that of the yellow fever of the West Indies, in others it materially differed. To us indeed it appears to have had more of the typhus cast. The author is however of a different opinion, and his reasons are these:

P. 84.—'Although, as I have already observed, the cause of this disease cannot be traced to any precise source, and in that respect the disciples of the different opinions entertained with respect to the origin of the yellow fever in the western world, may be disposed to reject any comparison between them; yet, upon a careful examination of circumstances in the modes of the attack, in the progress of the symptoms, and even in the method of cure, I apprehend there will be found a very striking similarity; to me at least, a sameness of the diseases is very evident; so much so, that had the history of the yellow fever, as related by Dr. Rush or Dr. Chisholm, fallen into my hands, without a title, I should immediately have pronounced it to have been a history of the disease which occurred on board the *Busbridge*.

'The circumstances of the similarity in the symptoms, as costiveness, obtuse pain in the right side, defect of appetite, flatulency, perverted taste, giddiness, dulness, and more or less yellow colour of the eyes, with dim and imperfect vision; at the same time, the sudden attack and striking appearance of the countenance, mentioned both by Dr. Rush and Dr. Chisholm; the coma, listlessness, and indifference about themselves, and every thing else, pains of the eyes, joints, and calves of the legs, together with the many symptoms of a nervous nature, also mentioned by these authors; are all strong proofs of what I have advanced.'

Whether Mr. B. be right in this conclusion or not, the treatment, which he pursued in the removal of the disease, does much credit to his judgment and observation.

A. R.

LAW.

ART. XV. *An Essay on the Law of Usury.* By Mark Ord, Esq. Barrister at Law. 8vo. About 150 pages. Price 3s. Brooke. 1797.

THIS

THIS tract contains a brief history of the laws respecting usury, and will be found very serviceable to practitioners, both on account of the cases cited, and the application of them.

Mr. Ord begins by defining usury; then shows the antiquity of loans at interest, the prohibition of usury by common and statute law, the ancient mode of punishment, and the reasons for its severity. He next points out, what contracts come under the denomination of usuries; marks how far usury affects the validity of the contract; and then concludes with the punishments by modern law.

ART. XVI. *The Trial of John Binns, Deputy of the London Corresponding Society, for Sedition. Before Mr. Justice Ashhurst, at the Assizes held for the County of Warwick, on Saturday August 12th, 1797. Taken in Short-hand by Mr. Henry Bunne, Birmingham, and published by the Defendant. Second Edition. 8vo. 84 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Birmingham, Belcher; London, Evans and Bone,*

MR. PERCIVAL, who addressed the jury on the part of the crown, insisted strongly on two counts of the indictment: the first respected annual parliaments and universal suffrage, and the second an attempt to procure these by force. In the course of his harangue, he alluded to 'the monstrous doctrine' of men 'sacrificing their lives in the cause of posterity,' which he was pleased to term a 'false philosophy.'

After the evidence for the prosecution had been adduced, Mr. Romilly, in behalf of the defendant, very ably showed, that the witnesses varied from the indictment, and indeed from each other. The evidences for the defendant went strongly in favour of his innocence, both as to principles, and intention.

Mr. justice Ashhurst, who presided, candidly allowed, 'that it would not only be commendable, but the bounden duty of every man to take arms, and resist the attempts of the executive power, if it strive to wrest from the people the liberty of the press, and trial by jury.'

The verdict, which was 'not guilty,' will, we hope, tend not a little to lay that spirit of prosecution, which, were it to be continued with the vigour displayed some time ago, would totally eradicate the liberty of speech, and people every parish in the kingdom with informers.

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POETRY. THE DRAMA.

ART. XVII. *The Vales of Wever, a Loco-Descriptive Poem, inscribed to the Reverend John Granville of Calwich, Staffordshire, by I. Gisborne, Esq. 4to. 88 pages. Price 5s. boards. Stockdale. 1797.*

MR. GISBORNE has an indisputable talent for descriptive poetry: and in the present production he has shown considerable taste in the selection of objects, he has displayed a lively imagination and a copiousness of language. He will excuse us, however, for pointing

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ing out to him one or two faults, which discredit his poem; the first twenty lines are extremely exceptionable on many accounts:

P. 7.—‘Wootton! if e’er thy shadowy vales,  
Thy rock-roof’d canopies and dales,  
Diffus’d enchantment o’er my breast,  
Or charm’d one anxious thought to rest:  
Now, as I tread thy sylvan steeps,  
That nodding chill those verdant deeps;  
*While noon the summer’s glorious birth*  
*Salutes, and stars with flowers the earth,*  
*Lifts to the sun their silken eyes,*  
*And musks with balmy breath the skies:*  
Receive amid thy vocal throng  
The tribute of my parting song.

‘O’er heaven’s wide azure vapours roll,  
Gray sailing to the arctic pole,  
Soft as they ride the whisper’d gale  
(Broad shadows shuddering down the vale),  
Part their grand forms, blue gulfs disclose,  
Swell or contract as Zephyr blows;  
Onward they roll sublime and slow,  
And edge their wondrous shapes with snow.’

The lines from seven to ten, which we have printed in italics, if they have any meaning at all, are extremely obscure; what is the nominative case to ‘*salutes*,’ ‘*stars*,’ ‘*lifts*,’ and ‘*musks*?’ is ‘*noon*?’ surely not. Noon does not ‘star with flowers the earth’; which by the way is scarcely a legitimate expression; Mr. G. himself would have smiled if a brother poet had talked of ‘flowering with stars the sky,’ which perhaps would hardly be a more extravagant expression than his own. No, it is the province of summer to ‘star with flowers the earth’ and ‘lift to the sun their *silken* eyes;’ but ‘summer’s glorious birth’ cannot be the nominative case surely! the discovery of it then must be left to the sagacity of the reader. In three lines (13, 14, and 15) the vapours *roll*, *sail*, and *ride*! the epithet *shuddering* in the next line seems to have been selected merely for the sake of alliteration.

‘Part their gray forms’ (l. 17.); in the course of the poem, several instances occur of this affected and unnatural arrangement:

P. 31.—‘Hovers the hour, when Justice dread  
On Tyranny’s devoted head  
Shall wing’ &c.

P. 36.—‘But leaves the Muse her flowery plain  
For surly Winter’s drear domain.’

P. 61.—‘Here amid black sequestered shades,  
That darken’d once those sunny glades,  
Frown’d a great pile.’

P. 65.—‘Ere long sulphureous clouds imbrown’d  
The heavens, and roll’d along the ground;  
Trembled the earth.’



P. 83.—‘*Trembled* the Nymphs’ occurs twice.

This inversion of the regular arrangement frequently creates obscurity, and the trick betrays itself by repetition; it is scarcely ever allowable, and in some of the preceding instances is used with peculiar infelicity: where it has been resorted to by writers of eminence, the intention has been to express a rapidity of action, by a corresponding rapidity and abruptness of expression:

—————“ the string let fly  
Twang’d short and sharp”———— Pope’s *Odys.* \*

Fairfax in his translation of Tasso sometimes uses it as expressive of velocity:

“ *Lighten’d* the Heav’n above, the earth below  
Roared aloud”———— 18. B. 37. ft.

In this last instance the sound is a complete echo to the sense: the first part of the sentence, which describes the lightning of heaven, snaps upon the ear, while in the latter, descriptive of the earth’s lazy rumbling, the line seems to labour, “ and the words move slow.” In four out of the seven instances which we have adduced from the poem before us, Mr. G. is clearly wrong in the application of this mechanism; in the first, the second, the fourth and the fifth. The reason in each case is so obvious, that it is quite unnecessary to point it out.

Notwithstanding the faults, which we have just enumerated, the perusal of this poem afforded us considerable pleasure: Mr. G. has undoubtedly a poetical genius: several of his descriptions are highly picturesque, and his imagery is rich and abundant. We shall conclude this article with a specimen, which does credit to the poet, after a description of the scenery from Wootton park down the vale towards the bank of the river Churnet, he glances at *existence*, and assimilates it’s precarious and deceitful period to the peculiarities of that river: he afterwards gives a fanciful description of the naiads viewing the brass-work at Alton.

P. 76.—‘ Churnet! how fleet thy waters roll  
Aside this grassy-mantled knoll,  
And down yon ford impatient urge  
Each white exasperated surge.  
The meadow gain’d, how smooth they glide!  
The lucid surface dimpling wide:  
Now seem to pause, yet silent rove,  
Then bound impetuous into Dove.  
‘ So fleet, so changeful, dark and clear,  
Existence rolls from year to year!  
When Health arrays Youth’s cloudless morn,  
And Pleasure gilds each rising dawn,

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\* Several examples are given in the introduction to Headley’s *Beauties of antient Poetry*, which Mr. G. may read with advantage.

On pinions swift as orient light,  
 Time seems to wing his airy flight:  
 But when th' illusive landscape fades,  
 Saddening at Death's disastrous shades,  
 When wrapp'd in night Affection tries  
 In vain to close her aching eyes,  
 Looks back on life, on widow'd years,  
 And sleeps her pillow in her tears;  
 How sullen strikes the bell! How slow  
 Each awful moment seems to flow!  
 Sorrow the tedious night deplores,  
 And Fancy wails the lengthen'd hours.

' Here oft the sister Naiads urge  
 Their steps on Churnet's flowery verge,  
 Smile at the smiles, whene'er they pass,  
 Of beauty beaming in the glafs.—  
 Lo! now they leave their shadowy caves,  
 And cleave with snow-white arms the waves;  
 Till (where dismantled Alton lours  
 'Mid tottering wrecks, time-moulder'd towers,  
 Round each pale bastion ivy creeps,  
 And fallen grandeur decks the steeps)  
 With dew-dropp'd hands they clasp the sedge,  
 On pearly feet ascend the edge;  
 Their limbs in folds of lustre veil,  
 And give their tresses to the gale.  
 As they trip down the verdant shore,  
 Sudden, emergent waters roar;  
 Rebellowing clamours loud assail  
 Alton's proud cliff and echoing vale,  
 In blackening volumes smoke ascends,  
 O'er heaven's ærial arch extends,  
 Dims every flower and radiant green,  
 And curtains all the busy scene.  
 Chill'd with strange horrors, pause the fair,  
 Gaze on the foam-revolving wear;  
 Each closer binds her sister's hand;  
 Fear-fix'd the lovely statues stand.  
 Lo! where the wheeling river boils,  
 Sudden, a portal hoarse recoils;  
 Dark forms, within a deep recess,  
 Around their ponderous anvils press,  
 Or jarring beat the brazen thongs,  
 And gorge with brass th' insatiate tongs.  
 But now the footy crowds awhile  
 Cast on the fair "a ghastly smile;"  
 With lifted hammers pois'd in air,  
 Gaze on the nymphs, forget their care,  
 Again the modern Cyclops throng,  
 And roll their brazen wreaths along,  
 Ope the broad stove's refulgent door  
 And Glory shudders on the floor:

Loud roars the wind! fresh flames aspire,  
Ceil the wide vault with sheets of fire,  
With squander'd stars the smoke illumine,  
While lightnings quiver through the gloom.'

We cannot avoid noticing a slight inaccuracy of expression in the two following lines:

Describing a winter's storm, the poet says—p. 33.

' In clouds against my groaning fash  
Broad feathery flakes incessant *dash*.

*Dash* is surely a very improper word to express the silent and the slow descent of snow.

ART. XVIII. *Poems*, by the Rev. Gerald Fitz-Gerald, D.D. S.F. T.C.D. and Professor of Hebrew, in the University of Dublin. Now first collected in one Volume, revised and improved by the Author. Small 8vo. 93 p. Price 3s. 6d. sewed. Dublin, Mercier and Co. London, Johnson. 1797.

THIS elegant little volume consists of four poems, each of which has been separately published many years ago, and long been out of print; the present edition, therefore, improved as it is by the learned professor's recent revision, will be considered by the public as a very acceptable present. The first poem is entitled *The Academic Sportsman*; the second, *The Injured Islanders*; the third is an imitation of the eleventh satire of Juvenal, and is called *The Economist*, wherein the author has happily substituted old Irish hospitality and manners for corresponding examples in the original, and illustrated his poem with extracts from Irish history; the fourth is an ode for St. Patrick's day, and is called *The Revival*; it was written in the year 1780, when the fame of the volunteers in Ireland had attained to the height of its celebrity; 'a circumstance,' says the doctor, 'which, it is hoped, will not render it less acceptable at the present period, when the same patriotic spirit has arisen on a much more interesting and alarming occasion.' A few introductory remarks are prefixed on the subject matter of each poem, and a few notes are added in elucidation at the end.

Much as we are pleased with the '*Economist*,' which is a very easy and animated imitation of Juvenal, we are disposed to give a preference to the '*Injured Islanders*,' as superiour in point of description, imagery, and harmonious versification, to any poem in the present collection. The '*Injured Islanders*' is an epistle from Oberea of Otaheite to captain Wallis, who discovered that island in 1767. The object of the poem is to display the malignant 'influence of art upon the happiness of nature.' After the departure of captain Wallis, a revolution stripped Oberea, the generous queen of Otaheite, of her wealth, her dignity, and power; 'a remembrance of their mutual affection—a sense of her subsequent misfortunes—and a patriotic feeling for the fate of her country, are the basis of the poem.'

We doubt not but our readers will be much pleased with the following extract:—p. 44.

' These awful scenes, depicted to my view,  
(And fame, O Wallis! proves the painting true,)



Oft to my mind some dreadful change present—  
 Some distant danger, or some dire event—  
 Some gath'ring tempest, black'ning from afar—  
 Some bursting rage of desolating war:—  
 Ah! shall this isle, so late admired by thee,  
 To plenty sacred, and to pleasure free—  
 This land, where peace diffus'd it's hallow'd power,  
 Where social virtues cheer'd each passing hour,  
 A barren waste—a lifeless scene appear,  
 By rapine plunder'd, or enslaved by fear?  
 Some tyrant's conquest, or some pirate's spoil?  
 It's native blessings banish'd from the soil!—  
 Ah! shall its sons, to seek fictitious wealth,  
 For lordly masters lose their florid health?  
 For glitt'ring ore, that ever useless shines,  
 Shun the bright day, and sink in dismal mines?  
 Or, bent to burdens, on the surface go,  
 Injur'd to all the discipline of woe—  
 Forbid it thou great Tane, ever blest!  
 If e'er my wishes reach'd thy pitying breast,  
 If e'er a suppliant won thy friendly care,  
 Oh! spare my country, mighty Tane, spare!  
 Ere ills, like these, o'er native rights prevail,  
 Dart the keen lightning at each daring sail,  
 Bid the loud tempest rouse the whelming wave,  
 And not a foe the furling fury save:  
 Or far remove, if vengeance be forgot,  
 These Injur'd Isles to some sequester'd spot,  
 Some placid corner of the boundless main,  
 Unmark'd by science, unexplor'd by gain,  
 Where Nature, still, her empire safe may hold  
 From foreign commerce confidence and gold.  
 From foreign arts—from all that's foreign free—  
 Save Wallis only—if approv'd by Thee.

\* Yes, Wallis, yes, from thee no fears alarm,  
 Whose highest rage submission could disarm—  
 Well do my thoughts recal that awful hour,  
 When first we felt, and trembled at thy pow'r,  
 Some dreadful demon, with an hostile band,  
 We fear'd thee sent to desolate our land,  
 What could, alas! defenceless troops inspire?  
 What check the fury of destructive fire?  
 Repell'd, confounded, Patriot valour fled,  
 As all around the rapid ruin sped;  
 \*Till, first in mercy, as the first in sway,  
 Your pity spar'd what pow'r could take away,  
 Resistance conquer'd saw resentment cease,  
 And war's black horrors brighten into peace;  
 \*Twas then, to meet thee on the crowded shore,  
 The verdant plantain in my hand I bore,  
 In due obeisance, half my bosom bar'd,  
 And sound respect by mutual rites rever'd,

A kindling

A kindling zeal, ere complaisance began,  
 And all the hero soft'ning in the man:  
 Pleas'd with the manners of my mighty guest,  
 I fearless led thee to the social feast,  
 Where palm-spread sheds, on stately pillars, stood  
 Midst cooling shades, and vistas of the wood,  
 Each op'ning front drew fragrance from the air,  
 You gaz'd—you vow'd a paradise was there—  
 Smil'd as the cocoa, soothing to the soul,  
 Pour'd the sweet bev'rage from it's native bowl,  
 Or, vary'd viands op'd their grateful store,  
 Fruits from the grove, and fishes from the shore,  
 New wonder rose, when rang'd around for thee,  
 Attendant virgins danc'd the Timrodee,  
 And vocal bards, the pleasure to prolong,  
 Sung the bold deeds, and heroes of their song,  
 But chiefly thee, thy vict'ry, and thy praise—  
 The noblest subject of their simple lays,  
 Till the tir'd fun, on western waves repos'd,  
 Dismiss'd the ev'ning, and the Heiva clos'd.

This is a fair specimen of the poem, from which it will be seen that our author's versification is rather distinguished by an elegance and ease, than grandeur or sublimity.

ART. XIX. *The Economy of monastic Life, (as it existed in England) a Poem, with philosophical and archæological Illustrations from Lyndwood, Dugdale, Selden, Wilkins, Willis, Spelman, Warton, &c. and copious Extracts from original MSS.* By T. D. Fosbrooke, M.A. Curate of Horsley, Gloucestershire. 4to. 110 p. Gloucester, Raikes; London, Johnson. No date.

THIS poem may be considered as giving the *generic character* of monachism: in a short preface the author states, that it was not his intention to reconcile all the different orders, or does he appear to have had in view any particular institution as the model for description. Mr. Fosbrooke has endeavoured, and we will add very successfully, to convey a general idea of the nature of monastic life, by describing those duties and ceremonial particulars, which were common to every society of monks. The numerous and recondite references, in the poem itself, the preliminary dissertations, the notes, and the appendix, evince the author to have bestowed considerable labour in the elucidation of his subject. As to the poetry, an obsolete phraseology and the stanza of Spenser give it an air of appropriate antiquity; the following short extract, we are persuaded, will be sufficient to inspire our readers with a desire of perusing the whole performance: it describes the profession of a novice: p. 36.

\* There too, before the monkish cowl was worn,  
 Two hoary pedagogues\* tyrannic reign,  
 (Soon as his youthful locks were closely shorn)

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\* \* The masters of the novices were to be old men. Lynd. Const. Othob. Oxf. ed. p. 144.

Tutored the novice to a life of pain,  
 Harsh as of maids, whom aunts unmarried train  
 Deceiver man at distance meet to hold;  
 When of the bright-haired monarch's fiery wain  
 One journey through the pictured signs was told,  
 In list of monks professed that novice was inrolled.

\* He, on such day, in a sequester'd cell,  
 On all the hierarchies of Heaven would call,  
 To witness that he bade the world farewell;  
 Ere long the prior filled his fretted stall,  
 And hooded conclave lined the chapter wall,  
 Ere long the sound of coming feet they heard,  
 A gentle buz began of murmurs small,  
 Against the door a trembling form appeared,  
 Whose pale looks marked how much the solemn scene he  
 feared.

\* Slowly he moved with head upon his breast,  
 And bent his knee the prior's throne before;  
 His hands were by the trembling prior prest;  
 All silent gazed, the book of holy lore  
 In solemn step the grave precentor bore,  
 A due pause made to aid his fault'ring tongue,  
 A triple piety of vows\* he swore,  
 His lips thrice on the quiv'ring volume hung,  
 And thrice a loud Amen along the arches rung.

\* Then two and two they marched, and loud bells tolled,  
 One from a sprinkle† holy water flung,  
 This bore the relicks in a chest of gold,  
 On arm of that the swinging censer hung,  
 Another loud a tinkling handbell rung,  
 Four fathers went that ringing monk behind,  
 Who suited psalms of holy David sung,  
 Then o'er the cross a stalking fire inclined;  
 And banners of the church‡ went waving in the wind,§

\* Next, while the fane with unwont splendor blazed  
 Against the lighted altar's velvet plain||,  
 Behold him kneel, his hands to heaven upraised;  
 Visions of glory fire his instant brain,  
 Jesu's meek form, and the immortal train  
 Of white-robed saints, a bright procession hold,  
 To cherubs carolling a heavenly strain;  
 While seraphim that float in air, unfold  
 Their skirts of woven light, and white wings dropt with gold.

\* \* Poverty, constancy, and obedience.

\* † Holy-water sprinkle.

\* ‡ As of the Trinity, the Saints, &c. § Besides these there were the ceroferarii or candlestick-bearers, the deacon reading the gospel, &c.

\* || Highly illuminated on festivals and great occasions. Monast. V. 3. Ecc. Cath. p. 241. 24 lights behind the high altar, three nights before Easter.

\* Louder



\* Louder and louder swells the choral psalm,  
 The mighty sounds fresh ecstasy inspire;  
 The saints applauding wave the branch of palm,  
 Rejoicing seraphs strike the golden wire,  
 Their beamy tresses sparkle in the choir,  
 Descending clouds upon the altar rest,  
 And light excessive vaults the fane with fire;  
 He joins the bright procession of the blest,  
 And glides sublime along a Heaven-admitted guest\*.

ART. XX. *The Commentary of Hierocles upon the Golden Verses of the Pythagoreans; now first translated into English from an accurate Edition of the Greek Original, published in London, in the Year 1742, by the learned Dr. Warren, accompanied with Notes and Illustrations, by William Rayner, A. B. Vicar of Calthorpe, 8vo. 150 pages. Price 4s. sewed. Norwich, Berry and Rochester; London, Longman. 1797.*

IN these 'Golden Verses' is condensed a brief but comprehensive summary of the popular doctrines of Pythagoras: the learned are not agreed concerning the author of them, and probably never will be so; the verses however may very fairly be ascribed to some follower of that celebrated philosopher; and whether the honour be due to Lysis, Empedocles, or Epicharmus, it is not perhaps of much consequence to determine. Hierocles, by whose labour these Golden Verses are illustrated, was a platonian philosopher of the fifth century; his eloquence was admired at Alexandria, where he presided over a school, 'and read lectures on them, to an attentive and admiring audience;' his Commentary, which has descended to the present times, is a performance most minute and elaborate; scarcely has he suffered one word to escape without some elucidation or remark. The english reader is now indebted to the labour and learning of Mr. R., for the just translation of this Commentary into his own tongue: he appears to have entered fully into the meaning of his author, and to have kept in view those three points, which he well observes in the preface, must be heedfully attended to, in order to produce a good translation from the greek, or indeed from any other language: these points are, *accuracy, perspicuity, and spirit.*

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\* \* The novice to be professed, went to the chapter, requesting the society of the house. This being granted, he took the oaths upon the missal, the abbat or prior holding his hands between his own. He then carried the missal to the altar, a religious service was performed, and the dress of the order delivered to him. Lyndwood says, *habitus professorum datur in capitulo, habitus novitiorum in choro*—he adds *habitus professorum benedicuntur, habitus vero novitiorum non.* pa. 203, col. 1, note c, voc. religionis habitum. Pref. Monast. V. 1. Id. V. 2, p. 500, of the knights hospitallers; but the form was similar among all the religious, as well monks as lay-brothers. See V. 2, p. 740.

We shall select a short extract from the Lecture on the following line,

‘Th’ illustrious heroes next your homage claim’

because it comprehends one of the translator’s notes in illustration of his author.

P. 16.—‘The beings who in nature and honour are a middle kind, are *the illustrious heroes*: these have always a knowledge of their Creator, and by him are crowned with felicity of life; yet neither in the same degree of perfection, nor unchangeably so. United to him in a medium way, and converting to him without toil of vice, they choir about him in varied movements, and, by a multiplied knowledge, at once separate and join the contemplations of the former kind, and make *the close* of their inspections *the beginning* of their own initiations.

‘These, with reason, are named *illustrious heroes*; *illustrious*, as being good and always enlightened, and *never* falling into vice or forgetfulness; and *heroes*, as fervent lovers of God, who raise and elevate us from this earthly dwelling to a citizenship above. It is usual also to call them good *demons*, as learned and knowing in the divine laws; and sometimes good angels, they shewing and announcing to us the precepts for a happy life. Employing also frequently this threefold notion of them, we distinguish the whole *middle* kind into three species; that next to *the immortals*, we call *angels*; that bordering on the *terrene* kind, *heroes*; and that equi-distant from both extremes, *demons*; and this is a distinction that Plato often makes.

‘Some denominate the whole of the *middle kind* from one of the above names, indifferently calling them all angels, or demons, or heroes; now these bear a similar relation to the *prime* kind that light does to fire, or as a son to his father: whence the heroes are called *sons of deities*, they not being generated by mortal congress, but proceed from their *one* cause, even as light beams from the substance of a luminous body, but a light serene and pure.

‘Next to this *second* kind, there falls under our consideration what may be denominated *light in shade*, which is the third or human kind of rationals, and which sometimes falls into vice and forgetfulness; whence also a man departs from a continued knowledge of his Maker, and so is inferior to them who always know him\*; but

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\* \* These gods, or celestials, as the philosopher calls them in this commentary, are no other than the FIXED STARS which we see in the skies; each of which, he says, is a spirit endued with reason, and clothed with a pure and celestial form. Pythagoras, as Laertius tells us, taught, that the sun, moon, and stars are deities; and Alcimus, speaking of the eight spheres, says, these are all of them intelligent beings, in their shape globose; and thus Hierocles explains them. In his lecture upon the 67th verse he speaks of the sun and stars as follows: “as in the stars, the superior or commanding part is a SPIRITUAL nature, and the inferior a CORPOREAL one; and, as the whole sun is a being that consists



but he is superior to animals, in that he sometimes has knowledge of God, and is then recalled to the study of divine science; when,

consists of spirit and body, such also are the other kinds, the heroic and human: every hero is a rational soul, clothed in a luminous form, as a man, in like manner, is a rational soul, with an ethereal form, or what you may call the inner man." It has been thought by some, that Hierocles, in this scheme, has improved upon the old heathen plan: but this is a mistake; and all he has said upon this head is no other than what Homer had said long before him, as will be seen in the following beautiful extract from that poet's hymn to Apollo, or the sun, in a strictly literal translation:

Ἔισι δὲ Φορμίζων Ἀπὸς ἐρικυδέος υἱός

Φορμίζῃ γλαφυρῇ πρὸς Πυθῶ πιτρεῖσσαν, κτλ.

Renown'd Latona's son, sweeping the lyre\*,

To rocky Pytho hastes, arrayed in vests

Immortal, fragrant; and his lyre, when strikes

THE GOLDEN PLECTRUM †, yields a sound divine!

Thence from the earth, as pleasure prompts, he soars,

To high Olympus, to the courts of Jove,

And mixes with the gods. The lyre and song

Commence immediate, the immortals' care;

When all the muses, with mellifluous tongues,

Responding aid the song. Sweetly they choir

"The bliss SINCERE of gods, the stabbing cares

Of disappointed, vex'd, unhappy men,

The fruits of painful ignorance; how they live

Darken'd, despairing, impotent of brain;

Nor cure for death, nor remedy for griefs,

Nor lenient balm for dubious musing find."

The bright-trefs'd graces, with the laughing hours,

And Harmony and Hebe, seed of JOVE,

And VENUS, handed each by some young god,

Lead up the measur'd dance; while Dian fair,

Glorying in arrows, with Hyperion bred,

To them soft-silvering, as her Phœbus, sings;

With these gay MARS and keen-ey'd MERCURY

Disport; while SOL, far beaming and sublime,

Swift, as he glances up THE GRAND SALOON,

Smites deep into the chords, and swells the lyre;

Splendors WING round him, while the lightning beams

Of his quick-quiv'ring feet and roseate vest

Purple THE DOME; LATONA, thron'd by JOVE,

Eyes him with rapture, extasy'd to hear

The lovely lyrist warbling with the gods.

\* Neither Homer, Hierocles, nor Pythagoras seems to have had the least idea of "an edifice from God, a house NOT MADE WITH HANDS, eternal in the heavens." 2 Cor. v. 1.

\* \* The planetary orbs.

† The solar rays, which, beating upon and pervading the orbs, ATTRACT and keep them in their due positions.

having



having escaped material corruption, and shaken off his propensity to mortal pleasures, he is raised and joined to the divine choir; and then also it is meet he should receive honour from us, as one deemed worthy of the divine acceptance, and as having graced an equality with human nature, by a participation in one *above* it. And indeed it becomes him who loves God, to honour such as in any degree resemble him, whether they have enjoyed that likeness from eternity, or acquired it by diligence and exercise, *in time*. Such are men who have been eminent in virtue; concerning whom, when released from this life, the poet thus ordains, in the ensuing lines.\*

To these Golden Verses of the Pythagoreans Mr. R. has added a translation of the Characters of Theophrastus, a philosopher, to whom we are indebted for the preservation of Aristotle's works, and who, with much honour and celebrity, succeeded him in the labours of the Lyceum.

ART. XXI. *The Invincible Island; a Poem: with introductory Observations on the present War.* By Percival Stockdale. 8vo. 63 pages. Price 2s. Clarke. 1797.

WHEN Edward the first completed the conquest of Wales, he is said to have assembled all the bards, and ordered them to be put to death, lest the latent energies of the people should be roused into action and revenge by the powers of their poetry\*. Far be it from us, however,—very far indeed! to frighten Mr. S. with predicting for him so melancholy a fate. We venture to assure him, that should Buonaparte succeed in the threatened invasion of England, and adopt the barbarous policy of the first Edward, he has nothing to do in order to secure a reprieve from the general massacre, than offer the conqueror a copy of this most delectable poem. Any half dozen lines will explain the reason. P. 26.

'Would but *one* spirit of the mighty dead  
His heat benign on his admirer shed;  
Would BURKE, who gave us poetry in prose,  
While strength of argument collateral flows;  
With great suggestions fill *my* poorer breast;  
'Twould then, with glorious agitation blest,  
Congenial sense, and imagery produce,  
Of private rapture, and of public use.—  
Transfuse *his* fervid æther to my line;  
The coyness I could bear of all the Nine.  
Oh! come; to man disposed for ever well;  
People with PLATO's forms my lonely cell;  
Those forms, in eloquence by thee convey'd;  
In thy mellifluous style, celestial shade!  
A splendid world of poetry would show;  
And with more music teach my verse to flow;

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\* It is well known that Mr. Gray's pindaric ode "The Bards" is founded on this tradition.

Come, then: to letters warmly still inclined;  
Enrich my fancy, and inform my mind!

Reader! hast thou not enough of these rapturous strains? then  
buy the book; the price is *only* two shillings.

ART. XXII. *Opuscules Poétiques, par l'Auteur de l'Épître à mon Père.*  
8vo. 46 pages. Chelsea, Jaques et Thomas. 1797

THE first of these poetical opuscula is entitled *Les Époux Malheureux, ou les Victimes de la Vendée*. After Lycis and Daphne have been married about a twelvemonth, the former, in defence of his king, joins the leaders in La Vendée; in crossing the Loire on his return,

' Poussé contre un rocher par les vents furieux,  
Son frère esquivé se brise avec un bruit affreux.'

Luckily, however, he is thrown on shore by a billow, but during his absence the enemy has burned his habitation, and murdered his wife. Driven by despair, he returns to the scene of action, and is killed by a ball in the engagement. We have read these poems with patience, and with pity, as the probable production of some needy emigrant; but it is impossible to speak of them in terms of very high commendation. One Mr. Ewer has translated the greater part of them, most wretchedly. Take the following specimen, speaking of the republicans:

' I will not with their deeds defile my muse,  
Let us soft tints and pleasing colours use  
The Vendéans to paint, religious, good,  
Living together all in brotherhood,' &c.

To call such stuff a translation is most cruel to the author.

ART. XXIII. *The Jacobin's Lamentation; or, The Poor too rich.*  
8vo. 19 pages. Price 1s. Hatchard. 1798.

WE suppose the author of these satirical verses pleased himself by his composition; we wish not to deprive him of the pleasure he enjoys, for really we cannot share it with him.

The man who can find no misery in England, no poverty occasioned by war or by taxation, is likely to travel over the globe, without making any discovery of the wretchedness of human beings.

How false, then, have been the complaints of all ages, and how ridiculous must be the supposition, that the earth is cursed, and man born to sorrow!

But we check ourselves,—for who would *reason* with the author of the Jacobin's Lamentation?

D.M.D.

ART. XXIV. *False Impressions: A Comedy in five Acts. Performed at the Theatre Royal, Covent-Garden.* By Richard Cumberland, Esq.  
8vo. 74 p. Price 2s. Dilly, 1797.

THE restless and rapid pen of Mr. C. has supplied the theatre with a new drama in the piece now under review. Our remarks on this production



production will be short: for, not sufficiently attentive to that prudent advice,

“ Solve senescentem maturè sanus equum ”—

and resolved, as it would appear, to *gallop his Pegasus to death*, our dramatist has forced the poor jade, in the effort before us, to betray evident symptoms of weariness and imbecillity. If we require from the comic muse a vigorous construction of fable, a display of character various and novel, a dialogue sparkling with wit or mellow with humour, it is not perhaps from the fairest progeny of Mr. C——’s *Thalia*, that we are to expect our gratification: but in the subject of our present notice we can scarcely trace enough of the parent to ascertain the legitimacy of the bantling; and we look in vain even for that mediocrity of excellence, which we have acknowledged in some of the elder offspring of the same family. This drama, indeed, is moral in it’s design and it’s execution; and to be invariably moral is the appropriate and high character of Mr. Cumberland’s poetic as well as prose page.

The story of this dramatic trifle, so much of it, at least, as is distinctly defined, may be very shortly related.

Lady Cypress, an old and rich maiden lady, is induced by the influence of her attorney-agent, Earling, who cherishes designs on her fortune, and her person, to entertain a strong prepossession against her nephew, Algernon, whom she has never seen, but whom she has been taught to regard as tainted with almost every vice, and to whom she consequently refuses admission into her presence or her castle. As an additional motive for her prejudice against this young man, her sister’s son, and for her partiality to his slanderer, Earling, the circumstance of a chancery-suit, in which her cause was successfully conducted by the latter against the father of the former, is incidentally mentioned. The same weakness, which allows her to be biased against her nephew, leads her, first to receive into her protection, and subsequently, after an undefined period of dependence, to adopt, (with the resolution of resigning the immediate possession of her property in favour of her new daughter,) miss Emily Fitzallan, a young lady, who has no other claim to the signal distinction in question, but what is formed by her personal virtues, and the merit of her father, a respectable old officer, who died on the field of battle. This strange resolution is abandoned by lady Cypress with the same levity with which it was at first entertained; and miss Fitzallan is thrown from her golden prospects to her pristine poverty, in consequence of her offering, in reply to the calumnies of Earling, some defence of Algernon, whom she had accidentally seen; and for whom as her deliverer from the brutality of a ruffian, who had assaulted her, she had conceived a tender affection. In this state of things, sir Oliver Montrath, who had been the friend and military comrade of major Fitzallan, is introduced upon the stage. By his honourable inference, Algernon, who was already in the castle under the disguise of a footman, obtains an opportunity of confronting Earling, and of vindicating his character to the complete satisfaction of his weak and pliant aunt. The denouement is now effected. Lionel Montrath, sir Oliver’s nephew, to whom the hand of Emily Fitzallan had been destined by her patroness, is discovered to be the villain, from whose violence the young lady had lately been rescued by  
the



the seasonable and spirited interposition of Algernon. All impediments to the union of the hero and the heroine of the scene being now happily removed, and the old lady's affections running as strongly in favour of her nephew, as in the preceding moment they had done against him, the drama closes, in perfect conformity with the laws of poetic justice, by dismissing guilt to shame, and honesty to honour and happiness.

Such is the slight stuff from which the scenes, under our examination, are fabricated; and to pursue our remarks on this piece through those other constituent parts of a drama, the characters, sentiments, and language, would be a task which could produce no other result, than that of disappointment to the author, and of fatigue to our readers and ourselves. We will content ourselves therefore with transcribing that scene of the production which strikes us as the best; and with expressing our satisfaction, that, however lightly this comedy may weigh in the scale of Mr. C.'s dramatic reputation, it cannot, from its success upon the stage, be deficient when poised in that of his profit.

P. 30.—ACT III.—LADY CYPRESS AND SERVANT.

\* *Lady Cypress.*—Hark! 'tis the porter's bell—run to the hall, and tell me if sir Oliver's arriv'd.

\* *Serv.* Madam, he's here: sir Oliver is present.

\* *Sir Oliver Montrath enters.*—*Lady Cyp.* Welcome, most welcome! May I trust my senses? This is above hope that you and I should live to meet again.

\* *Sir Oliv.* My ever dear, my ever honour'd lady?

\* *Lady Cyp.* Time has gone lightly over you, my friend! You, that have travers'd sea and land, are whole; I, that have tempted neither, am become a shatter'd wreck on shore.

\* *Sir Oliv.* Not so, not altogether so, thank heaven! Time is a furlly guest, whose courtesy does not improve by long acquaintance with us; but we'll not rail at him since he permits us once more to meet.—And here's the same old castle still unspoilt by modern foppery; aye, and the same old grandfires firm in their frames with not one wrinkle more than when I parted from them years ago.

\* *Lady Cyp.* Aye, years indeed—but you have fill'd them up with glory; your's has been a life of themes for future history, a field of laurels to adorn your tomb—mine has been tame and simple vegetation.

\* *Sir Oliv.* I have liv'd a soldier's life; but, heaven be thank'd, I've plunder'd no nabob, stript no rajah of his pearls and pagodas, nor have I any blood upon my sword, but what a soldier's honour may avow—but you have here a reliet of my gallant comrade major Antony Fitzallan. He was wounded by my side, carried off the field, and died in my arms. With his last breath he bequeath'd ('twas all he had to bestow) a blessing to his daughter, and charg'd me, if I liv'd to come to England, to thank you for your charity, and be a friend to her.

\* *Lady Cyp.* I trust you'll find her worthy of your friendship.

\* *Sir Oliv.* Is she good, is she amiable? Has she her father's principles, her mother's purity?

\* *Lady Cyp.* See her and judge; she's naturally sincere—but where's your nephew? where is Mr. Lionel?—I reckon'd with much pleasure upon seeing him.

\* *Sir*

\* *Sir Oliv.* Ah, my good lady, there I am unfortunate. I had built upon the hopes of presenting him to you; but it cannot be at present. Poor Lionel is indispos'd, and must bear his disappointment with what philosophy he can.

\* *Lady Cyp.* The disappointment is reciprocal—a little time I hope will bring him to us,

\* *Sir Oliv.* I wish it may—but look! who comes—

\* *Lady Cyp.* This is my orphan charge—This is our Emily.

\* *Emily Fitzallan enters.*—*Sir Oliv.* The very image of her lovely mother.

*Lady Cyp.* My dear, this is sir Oliver Montrath, mine and your father's friend; as such you'll honour him.

\* *Sir Oliv.* As such I claim the privilege to embrace and press her to my heart. My child, my charge, devolv'd upon me by a father's legacy, when breathing out his gallant soul in prayers and blessings for his Emily.

\* *Emily.* Oh sir, was you, was you beside him at that dreadful moment?

\* *Sir Oliv.* I was, my child! these arms supported him, cover'd with wounds, and crown'd with victory—alas! how dearly purchas'd.

\* *Emily.* Then let his last commands be ever sacred; if you have any such in charge to give me, impart them, I conjure you.

\* *Sir Oliv.* I have none but blessings to impart. In fortune's gifts the hero had no share, in virtue's he abounded. In the care of this your generous benefactress he had left you; to that and heaven's protection he bequeath'd you.

\* *Emily.* I am content, and what before I ow'd in gratitude to this beneficent and noble lady, I now will pay with filial obedience and duty super-added. Suffer me, dearest madam, from this moment to call myself your daughter.

\* *Lady Cyp.* As such I have adopted you! remember now, my child, the duty you have taken on yourself, the authority you have consign'd to me. All rights parental center now in me; your happiness, your credit, your establishment, are trusts for which I am responsible.—You have no other task but to obey.

\* *Emily.* Obedience, madam, has its limitations; but such as I would render to my father I'll pay to you. Have I your leave to withdraw?

\* *Lady Cyp.* You may, my dear; your spirits seem to need it.—Go and compose yourself. [Exit. *Emily.*

\* *Sir Oliv.* Exquisite creature! I'm enchanted with her. By heaven! 'twould be the height of my ambition, the object I have most at heart in life, to see my Lionel—Oh that I could!—here kneeling at her feet.—Born of such parents, train'd by such instructions, and grac'd with charms so lovely, Emily, without a fortune, is a match for princes.

\* *Lady Cyp.* If such is your disinterested wish (and greater happiness I could not pray for) I trust my fortune thrown into her scale will not make her appear less worthy of your nephew, or cause you to retract your good opinion.

\* *Sir Oliv.* No, surely; but I doubt if I should wish your fortune to go out of the right channel even to Emily. We that have never married should regard our nephews as our sons.

\* *Lady*



\* *Lady Cyp.* But does affinity impose on me an obligation to bestow my property on one that merits nothing, to the wrong of her that merits all?

\* *Sir Oliv.* Is that the character of Algernon? Is he so undeserving?

\* *Lady Cyp.* Ah there, my friend, there is my terror; the destiny I dread; the man of all men living the most dangerous to my peace is Algernon.

\* *Sir Oliv.* Indeed!

\* *Lady Cyp.* Preserve my Emily from him—save her from Algernon!

\* *Sir Oliv.* Is Algernon then born to be a curse to both of us?

\* *Lady Cyp.* Explain yourself.

\* *Sir Oliv.* He is your nephew, therefore I was silent; but if he's dangerous to your peace of mind, to mine he is fatal—in one word, the wound of which my hapless Lionel now languishes was given by the hand of Algernon.

\* *Lady Cyp.* Horrible wretch!—his murderer.—

\* *Sir Oliv.* I say not that; for modern courtesy gives not that name to duellists, and honour sanctifies their bloody deeds.

\* *Lady Cyp.* Away with all such honour! Truth disavows it, nature revolts from it, religion denounces it—Oh! he is born to be my shame and torment.

\* *Sir Oliv.* Be patient for a while; suspend your judgment.

\* *Lady Cyp.* No, I regard a duellist with horror; I hold him as an agent of the enemy of mankind, sent to disturb society, and rend the parent's and the widow's hearts asunder: one action, one only action, and that a doubtful one, had met my ear in favour of that wretch whom I call nephew, and henceforth even that one I totally discredit, and renounce him.

\* *Sir Oliv.* Hold, I conjure you. In the midst of wrath let us remember justice. I, like you, abhor a duellist profess; yet I am taught by long experience how to make allowances for younger spirits, and warmer passions, that will not submit to meet the world's contempt, and scorn its prejudices.

\* *Lady Cyp.* Away! you talk this language by profession; reason declares against it.

\* *Sir Oliv.* Reason demands that we should pause in judgment. When two men draw their swords upon each other, reason will tell us one must be to blame; but ere we fix the blame upon that one, justice decrees that we should hear them both.

\* *Lady Cyp.* What says your nephew? He will speak the truth.

\* *Sir Oliv.* I should expect he would; yet I'll not wholly trust to any man's report against another in his own cause; and in this sentiment my nephew honourably coincides, for he declines all answer to my questions, and will state nothing to affect or criminate his antagonist—Hah! who is this?

L. Y.

ART. XXV. *The Wandering Jew: or Love's Masquerade, a Comedy in Two Acts, as Performed by their Majesty's Servants at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.* By Andrew Franklin. 8vo. 55 pages. Price 1s. Cawthorne. London. 1797.

THE



THE numerous impostors who have appeared at different times under the name and character of the Wandering Jew, a celebrated convert to christianity, of everlasting life, but subject once a century to an illness, which plunges him into a fit of extacy, whence his recovery commences\*, gave our dramatist the idea of advertising to a penurious father, that the old gentleman is arrived in town with abundant riches, which he purposes to bestow on some young wife, at his approaching periodical dissolution. Major Atall, the lover of fir Solomon Swallow's daughter, personates this old jew under the hope of obtaining her. This character, which is well adapted to display the imitative talents of the younger Banister, is well supported, and the whole of the performance is enlivened with considerable humour.

D. M. D.

## NOVELS.

ART. XXVI. *Walsingham; or, the Pupil of Nature. A Domestic Story.* By Mary Robinson. 4 Vols. 12mo. Price 16s. sewed, About 1400 pages. Longman. 1797.

FROM the innumerable performances of this nature, with which the press daily teems, it might be presumed, that, for the production of a novel, a very moderate share of talent and industry were requisite: and this notion, applied to the inferiour class of modern novels, the ephemera of a day, is probably critically just. But to produce a work of fiction, in which an acquaintance with life and manners, a talent for observation, or a knowledge of the operation of the passions upon human character, and a vigorous, creative fancy, should combine to form a consistent *whole*, harmonising in all it's parts, is, we are inclined to suspect, one of the highest efforts of human intellect. *Genius*, an unfortunate word, seductive to vanity, and incapable of a rational definition, resembles not the lightning's flash, gleaming instantaneously in electric splendour from east to west, but must result from severe application, labour, and perseverance. We are aware how repugnant to a certain class of writers is this painful truth, and with what difficulty the human mind relinquishes errors at once flattering to it's indolence and it's ambition. The productions of Mrs. R., we have before had occasion to observe, though in various parts evincing proof of ability and feeling, are yet, from the rapidity with which they are poured forth, ill calculated to abide the ordeal of criticism. A negligence manifesting so little respect for the judgment of those, whose decision only can gratify the laudable pride of the possessor of genuine talent, is deserving of reprehension. From the perusal of *Walsingham*, we were inclined to believe, that the author had never considered it as a *whole*, so defective and incongruous are the parts, so desultory the manner, and so incredible the events, as to bear not

\* For the story of the Wandering Jew, and a ballad on the subject, see Percy's Reliques of Ancient Poetry, and his references, Vol. II, p. 300, fourth edition.

even the semblance of reality. As a philosophic novel, to the character of which in the opening it appears to make pretension, it is altogether an abortive production. A memoir supposed to be written by the subject of it, even at a very distant period after the circumstances are represented to have taken place, may, well managed, be rendered highly interesting: strong feelings, as connected with important events, may be accurately retraced, or rather reproduced by the power of association: but foreign matter, on such occasions, should be sparingly introduced, the narrator should never appear to quit his ground, every accident should tend either to raise the interest, or to awaken the expectation, in strict subordination to the end. *Walsingham*, overwhelmed by the pressure of recent calamity, even suffering in its extreme crisis, entertains his sympathizing correspondent, while the story of his sorrows stands still, with digression upon digression, with anecdotes, *faro-tables*, sarcasms on the envy and malice of reviewers, with reflections and observations, in which the reader, wholly losing sight of the 'pupil of nature,' perceives only the author, with insipid and tiresome conversations, little, if at all connected with the story, the recollection of which in *Walsingham's* situation is entirely incredible.

The introductory letter, well written and highly interesting, excited our expectations; we pursued with pleasure the hero through the scenes of his childhood; but towards the latter part of the first volume, we began to languish, and proceeded through the second with lassitude bordering upon disgust. The circumstance upon which the distress turns is conducted in a manner so little probable, and frequently so ludicrous, as to destroy all sympathy; the characters are feeble, without excepting that of *Walsingham* himself; and the women are altogether contemptible. We must suppose Mrs. R. to be acquainted with the manners of fashionable life, yet if her portraits be not *caricatures*, the extremes of society appear to meet; her noblemen use the *slang* of the stable, and the language of her fine ladies somewhat resembles the dialect of certain females who deal in aquatic productions at the east end of the town: opposed to the brilliant pictures of Mrs. D'Arblay, those of our author bear the semblance of overcharged daubings. We purposely avoid entering into detail, as Mrs. R. has her circle of admirers; and to anticipate curiosity in a work of this nature, is to annihilate the principal source of the reader's amusement: yet we would just hint, that *Walsingham's* flight to the continent, on the extreme verge of his fate, and his tranquil residence there during a period of sufficient duration for the composing of four long tragi-comical volumes, when no cause is alleged, why the event which recalled him, which must have taken place almost immediately on his departure, (and of which any other man would have awaited the issue) was not earlier revealed, are somewhat extraordinary. Not less out of the course of common feeling is his sudden reverse of sentiment for his most barbarous and selfish enemy and persecutor. We might have been less apparently severe, had we not wished to rouse our fair author to future exertions, more worthy the fertility of her mind, and the vigour of her imagination. Several pieces of poetry are

interspersed through the work, some of them conceived with great delicacy and beauty, of which the following are specimens.

Vol. I, P. 53.—‘ The snow-drop, Winter’s timid child,

Awakes to life bedew’d with tears;  
And flings around its fragrance mild,  
And where no rival flowrets bloom,  
Amidst the bare and chilling gloom,  
A beauteous gem appears!

• All weak and wan, with head inclin’d,  
Its parent breast, the drifted snow;  
It trembles while the ruthless wind  
Bends its slim form; the tempest lours,  
Its em’rald eye drops cryстал show’rs  
On its cold bed below.

• Poor flow’r! On thee the sunny beam  
No touch of genial warmth bestows;  
Except to thaw the icy stream  
Whose little current purls along,  
Thy fair and glossy charms among,  
And whelms thee as it flows.

• The night-breeze tears thy filky drefs,  
Which, deck’d with silv’ry lustre, shone;  
The morn returns, not thee to bless,  
The gaudy crocus flaunts its pride,  
And triumphs where its rival died,  
Unshelter’d and unknown!

• No sunny beam shall gild thy grave,  
No bird of pity thee deplore;  
There shall no spreading branches wave,  
For Spring shall all her gems unfold,  
And revel ’midst her buds of gold,  
When thou art seen no more!

• Where’er I find thee, gentle flow’r,  
Thou still art sweet, and dear to me!  
For I have known the cheerless hour,  
Have seen the sun-beams cold and pale,  
Have felt the chilling wint’ry gale,  
And wept, and shrunk like thee;

Vol. IV, P. 226.—‘ MY NATIVE HOME.

• O’er breezy hill or woodland glade,  
At morning’s dawn or closing day,  
In summer’s flaunting pomp array’d  
Or pensive moonlight’s silver grey,  
The wretch in sadness still shall roam,  
Who wanders from his Native Home.

• While



\* While, at the foot of some old tree,  
As meditation soothes his mind,  
Lull'd by the humm of wand'ring bee,  
Or rippling stream, or whisp'ring wind,  
His vagrant fancy still shall roam,  
And lead him to his Native Home.

Though Love a fragrant couch may weave,  
And Fortune heap the festive board,  
Still Mem'ry oft would turn to grieve,  
And Reason scorn the splendid hoard;  
While he, beneath the proudest dome,  
Would languish for his Native Home.

\* To him the rushy roof is dear,  
And sweetly calm the darkest glen;  
While Pomp, and Pride, and Pow'r appear,  
At best, the glitt'ring plagues of men;  
Unsought by those that never roam  
Forgetful of their Native Home.

\* Let me to summer shades retire,  
With Meditation and the Muse!  
Or round the social winter fire,  
The glow of temper'd mirth diffuse;  
Tho' winds may howl and waters foam,  
I still shall bless my Native Home.

\* And oh! when Youth's extatic hour,  
And Passion's glowing noon are past;  
Should age behold the tempest low'r,  
And Sorrow blow its keenest blast;  
My shade, no longer doom'd to roam,  
Shall find the GRAVE A PEACEFUL HOME.'

Mrs. R.'s claims to poetic merit are respectable, we would recommend to her the peculiar cultivation of this enchanting talent. 'The Doublet of Grey,' a poem in the measure of Lewis's Alonzo and Imogene, has considerable merit.

ART. XXVII. *Parental Duplicity; or, the Power of Artifice.* By P. S. M. Three Vols. 12mo. 780 pages. Price 6s. sewed. Kearsley.

THIS production is not distinguished by any originality either of plot or sentiment. Sir Charles Beverly, an unprincipled man of fashion, ruins his fortunes at the gaming table, and, by the trite artifice of counterfeiting sickness, prevails upon his daughter, the beautiful Louisa (on whose compliance he pretends his restoration is depending) to break her engagements; originally sanctioned by himself, with an amiable young man of fortune and character, with whom she was on the point of marriage; and to yield her hand to a profligate nobleman, notorious for the violation of every moral sanction. The weakness and immorality of this conduct, to which is added the superstitious scrupulosity of adhering to a promise extorted by means the most base and hypocritical, are dignified, as is customary with the

inferiour class of novelists, by the appellations of heroism and filial piety. The lady, as may be supposed, has cause to rue her facility; and undergoes, from a brutal and unprincipled husband, a series of injuries and insults, which she suffers with meek submission; while her virtue triumphs over innumerable lawless attempts, founded upon a presumption of her resentment for unmerited neglect and indignity. At length the husband is luckily 'killed off' in a duel, which prepares the way for the renewal of former loves: when the deserted swain, who, during the defection and subsequent persecutions of his mistress, had passed his hours in bewailing his hapless destiny and sighing to the groves and streams (unlike the lovers of these degenerate days) receives the reward of his matchless tenderness and truth. Neither the story, the principles, the sentiments, nor the style of this performance, have any distinguishing characteristic. The uniformity and even tenour of the production afford no prognostic of the writer's future eminence; but, with juster notions of morality, though his talents should not procure him a place in the temple of Fame, they may yet enable him to entertain and instruct the common class of novel-readers.

ART. XXVIII. *The Knights: or Sketches of the Heroic Age, a Romance.* In Three Vols. 12mo. About 667 pages. Price 9s. sewed. Ogilvy and Son.

A TALE of chivalry, as announced by the title page, to which are prefixed a dissertation, and an account, principally extracted from the writings of Dr. Robertson and Lord Lyttleton, of the heroic ages. The scene of the narrative is laid in the twelfth century, during the second croisade: the personages are wholly fictitious, consisting of knights, squires, bards, fair ladies, and chaste damsels: the incidents are war, combats, captivities, rescues, escapes.

It is difficult, without possessing extraordinary powers of imagination, to interest the reader, in this advanced period of society, in characters, actions, and qualities, contrary to his habits and experience, and with which he has few associations. The talents of the present writer are not of this distinguished order. The austere nature of the virtues of chivalry precludes in some measure the display of passion, and the author has not had recourse to supernatural machinery, or superstitious terrors, to beguile the fancy or seize the attention: her production, nevertheless, by displaying a sketch of the principles and manners of ancient times, may afford young readers a blameless and entertaining relaxation.

We understand, that this work is the production of miss Knight, who has lately published proposals for a translation of Tasso. The specimen which we have seen of this translation has given us pleasure.

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POLITICS. POLITICAL ECONOMY.

ART. XXIX. *The Cause of Truth, containing, besides a great Variety of other Matter, a Refutation of Errors in the political Works of Thomas Paine, and other Publications of a similar Kind, in a Series of Letters, of a Religious, Moral, and Political Nature.* By Robert Thomas, Minister of Abdie. 12mo. 437 pages. Price 3s. sewed. Dundee, Colville; London, Vernor and Hood. 1797.

THE wordy writer of this book may look with an eye of scorn on the puny pamphleteers of the present day, and the purchasers of it may felicitate themselves on an excellent bargain, at least as to quantity: four hundred and thirty-seven pages of the smallest and the closest printing, all for three shillings! to subscribers only two! We are happy to find the scottish printers can afford so much for money, and heartily wish that reading was equally cheap in England.

Much good sense will be expected from this volume, when our readers are informed, that the author of it has made considerable use of such learned writers as Hume, Goldsmith, Ferguson, Montesquieu, Butler, Blackstone, De Lolme, &c. We do not mean to insinuate, however, that any unfair or unacknowledged advantage is taken of these authors; certainly not; Mr. T. has brought them forward in aid and elucidation of his political tenets, many of which do certainly require all possible assistance to support them. Among other subjects, which are treated of in this volume of letters, are 'the rights of men,' 'equality,' 'universal suffrage and annual parliaments,' 'the present state of our representation,' 'liberty,' 'kingly governments,' 'hereditary succession,' and the 'british constitution.' Our readers will form a judgment of Mr. T.'s political sentiments, and an estimate of his talents for defending them, from a single paragraph in reference to the rights of man: P. 34, (note.)

'The two bills lately passed in parliament, the one against treasonable and seditious practices and attempts, and the other against seditious meetings, take from no man any of his political rights.' This then is the thing to be proved: the demonstration is ingenious: 'they are intended only to regulate the use of those rights, *or* to prevent such an abuse of them as would end in the destruction and misery of the country.' For which purpose then are they intended, the former or the latter? but we will not be hypercritical: the author misunderstands the meaning of the word *or*; he takes it for a synonyme with *and*. So these bills are to *regulate the use of a right!* and to prevent such an abuse of it as would be injurious to society! that is, they allow to an assembly of people the most perfect freedom of discussion, *provided the reciprocity*—if we may be allowed an iricism—*be all on one side of the question.* 'They are of the same nature,' he continues, 'with the suspension of the *habeas corpus* act,' and we perfectly agree with him—'that the same necessity justifies all three!' But says this sapient politician, 'even if they were (what they are not, but what some have erroneously contended they are) an infringement of our political rights; yet this infringement is only for the space of three years'—modest creature! *only* for the space of three years!—'and therefore it is rather a suspension than an infringement of those rights. But it is not even a suspension of them: for the exercise of those rights in *thinking*, in speaking, writing, meeting, and petitioning, *in every right and innocent way*, about all public affairs, is not interrupted by those acts, even for a single instant! How flattering and consolatory to the sons of Britain, that their right of thinking is not yet interrupted! it is possible, however, that this riot may not be thrown away; or should we be surpris'd, were the premier to appoint, with a handsome salary, as 'investigators of private thought,' or some such titular dignity, messrs. Breslaw, Comus, and Katerfelto, to take cognizances of every traiterous groan, and every seditious sigh.



Did we feel a disposition to be serious on the present occasion, we should censure in severest terms the false and insulting assertion, that the right of speaking has not been interrupted by the operation of these two disgusting bills: was not a very crowded meeting of people, who assembled in the course of last summer, at Copenhagen house, for the express and avowed purpose of obtaining a parliamentary reform, dissolved by the authority of a magistrate, and were not some of it's leading members taken into custody before they had proceeded to any business whatever? 'Thus,' said Mr. Fox, in his late address to the electors of Westminster, on the anniversary of his election, 'thus,' said he, 'upon the whim, caprice, or officiousness of an individual, thousands of the people of this country were to be silent, upon a subject which is most interesting to us all; and had it not been for the good sense of the people at large, a number of individuals must inevitably have been MURDERED! for that must have been the effect of their resisting the magistrate, for the military were in readiness.'

Mr. T. has written a great deal of very tedious matter on the subject of equality: he sets out with a proposition, to which Mr. Godwin himself would assent, and shows his dexterity in boxing with his own shadow: 'All men,' says he, p. 75, 'ought to be free, that is, to enjoy the liberty in all situations, of doing what is aright, but no wrong. In this single respect they are or ought to be equal: in all other respects they may be, in most they are, and in some they ever must be unequal.' If our memory do not deceive us, Mr. Godwin contends against an equality of property in the present state of society, and Mr. Paine has set agrarian justice in opposition to agrarian law: for what possible purpose can Mr. T. have wasted so many words? This writer is a strenuous advocate for the right of primogeniture, which, says he, 'to a certain extent is founded in nature, and appointed by God!' p. 142. In the letters on the present state of our representation, our author is of opinion, that the influence of the crown, instead of being diminished, ought to be augmented, (p. 219.) particularly in cities and boroughs; 'the unmanageable spirit of the towns and boroughs in general,' says he, p. 227, 'their force, compared to the counties, the facility of uniting that force, and putting it in motion, are such as might prove dangerous to liberty, if the crown had not a firm hold of them by influence or force.' But we will not disgust our readers, or stain our pages, with any further transcript of such mean and slavish sentiments. D. M.

ART. XXX. *The Principles of the Constitution of England, including an Account of our Parliament, National Debt, and Established Religion.* 8vo. 29 pages. Price 1s. Debrett.

EXTRACTS from Dr. Paley's Moral and Political Philosophy, from which the reader will not very correctly learn the advantages and disadvantages of the english government, in it's present state.

ART. XXXI. *A Protest against Mr. Pitt's new Method of raising the Supplies, with a Counter Project to be substituted in its Place. Including a second Reply to the Analytical Reviewers.* By the Author of the Use and Abuse of Money. 8vo. 20 pages. Price 6d. Scot. 1797.

THIS spirited writer perseveres in maintaining, that the banker who holds stock, as he pays no interest for the notes he has in circulation, so he ought to receive no interest from government for the stock he holds. We need only observe on this subject, that as long as the trade in paper coin shall be authorised by law, the banker stands on the footing of any other tradesman to the claim he has to the profits of his business. The author, in lieu of the assessed taxes proposes a tax upon the property of large capitalists in the funds, upon the owners of large landed estates, and the holders of offices of great emolument under government. The plan brought forward is infinitely more equitable than that of the chancellor of the exchequer, as being regulated by a humane attention to the necessities of individuals.

ART. XXXII. *The Speech at Length of the Right Hon. C. J. Fox, on the third Reading of the Bill for increasing the assessed Taxes, Jan. 4, 1798.* 8vo. Price 6d. Jordan.

It is little necessary for us to make any observations on a speech, which is in the hands of every one. It does not appear to be given here at greater length than in the Morning Chronicle. He who has read it will pronounce it weighty in argument, and full of point and energy.

ART. XXXIII. *A Letter on the present Measures of Finance; in which the Bill now depending in Parliament is particularly considered.* By the Earl of Lauderdale. 8vo. 48 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Debrett. 1798.

THIS letter is written with great animation and spirit, and is full of the most important and pertinent observations.

The noble author shows, in a strong light, the erroneous principle of the bill for increasing the assessed taxes; and proves very clearly, that the assessed taxes are no criterion of property, income, or expenditure.

We cannot dissemble our apprehensions concerning the state of the country as it respects the finances; and if our fears be as well founded, as those have proved, which we always entertained concerning the success of this war, they will receive an awful verification.

The estimates of the minister have always fallen so vastly below the real expenditure in former years, that lord Lauderdale thinks the inference is fair, that the case will be the same this year.

We shall give his lordship's statement of the year 1797, from which, if the proportion be observed, and we dare say the excess of the expenditure above the estimates will not be less, we must conclude, that the expenditure of this year, which is estimated at 23,943,376l. will in fact exceed 38,000,000. Appendix, No. 1. p. 44.

## Appendix, No. I. Expenditure of 1797.

Estimate of the Expenditure for the Year 1797, under the Heads of Army, Navy, and Ordnance, as stated by Mr. Pitt, Dec. 7, 1796.	Increased Estimate of the Expenditure for the Year 1797, under the Heads of Army, Navy, and Ordnance, as stated by Mr. Pitt, April 26, 1797.	Total Amount of the Expenditure, under the Heads of Army, Navy, and Ordnance, of the year 1797, as stated by Mr. Pitt, the 24th of Nov. last.
<b>NAVY.</b> 120,000 Seamen Ordinary - 6,240,000 Extraordinary - 653,573 Estimated Navy Debt - 768,100 - 2,500,000 - 10,161,673	<b>NAVY.</b> 120,000 Seamen Ordinary - 6,240,000 Extraordinary - 653,573 Towards further Naval Expendit. 4,999,327 Further sum for which interest was provided 1,500,000 - 14,161,000	<b>NAVY.</b> Expenditure under this head, as stated the 24th of April 14,161,000 Excess of expenses, as admitted by Mr. Pitt - - - 3,000,000 - 17,161,000
<b>ARMY.</b> Per Estimate - 6,613,000 Extras - - - 4,300,000 - 10,913,000	<b>ARMY.</b> Estimate Extras, 1796 - 6,600,000 Due for Treasury Bills and Army Warrants outstanding - 3,387,000 Future Extras - 2,088,000 - 4,000,000 - 16,075,000	<b>ARMY.</b> Expenditure under this head, as stated 24th of April - 16,075,000 Excess, as admitted by Mr. Pitt - - - 1,300,000 - 17,375,000
<b>ORDNANCE.</b> Amount as voted - - - 1,623,000 - Total £ 22,697,673	<b>ORDNANCE.</b> Amount as voted - - - 1,623,000 - Total £ 31,859,000	<b>ORDNANCE.</b> Amount as voted - - - 1,623,000 - Total £ 36,159,000

We



We cannot but recommend, with affectionate earnestness, to the serious attention of every man of property in this country, this pamphlet, and the subject of which it treats, at this critical and important crisis.

ART. XXXIV. *A Proposal for liquidating 66,666,666 $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Three per Cents, by converting the Land Tax into a permanent Annuity; with cursory Observations. Humbly submitted to both Houses of Parliament. 8vo. 48 pages. Price 1s. Wright. 1798.*

THE author's means for carrying this measure into effect are,

p. 8.—1st. That the land tax at the rate of four shillings in the pound, producing two millions a year, should be made perpetual, and declared the first *lien* on every respective estate.

2d. That these two millions should be converted into a government annuity—under the name of the *land tax annuity*.

3d. That each land holder should have an exclusive privilege of redeeming his *own* land tax, or purchasing a share of the land tax annuity equal to it, at 25 years purchase.'

The author appears to us to argue as if every estate in the kingdom (p. 11) ought to be charged with an annuity, as a mortgage of one-fifth of it's value, or four shillings in the pound.

Now as every estate is *purchased* subject to it's *present* land tax, it is already to all intents and purposes *equal* to every present land holder, except to him, who has improved his estate by *buildings* since the land tax was laid. All proposals, therefore, of an indiscriminate *equalization* of the land tax, as it is improperly called, have appeared to us to be equally unjust and absurd.

Should the landholder be reluctant to submit to the plan of this projector, to which we do not deny the praise of ingenuity, he endeavours to reconcile him to it, by suggesting, that, if the funds eventually be ruined, by the failure of the funding system, (p. 6,) the nominal rental of the landholder would be reduced.

Now, this argument appears to us none of the strongest—for of what importance is a nominal rental? The *produce of the land* will always regulate the value of labour, and that of commodity; of what importance is it, therefore, whether a man receive ten pounds, or a hundred pounds, rent for his estate, if for ten pounds he can purchase as much of the labour of others, and the conveniencies of life, as he could have done for one hundred pounds? We wish this author success, if he attempt to heal the disease of our finances; but we have long thought it incurable. To be convicted of error in this case, would afford us a high gratification,

ART. XXXV. *A Letter to the Earl of Warwick, on his Opposition to the Resolutions proposed and carried at a general Meeting of the Inhabitants of Warwick, on the Subject of the New Assessed Tax Bill. By an Inhabitant of Warwick. 8vo. 20 pages. Price 6d. Johnson. 1798.*

It appears from this letter, that a meeting was called at Warwick, in opposition to the new assessed tax bill, and that the earl of W. attended the meeting, but was supported by very few in his opposition

to the resolutions offered, which were carried by a great majority, expressive of the most determined disapprobation of the bill then pending in parliament.

The earl and a few clergymen withdrew, and published a protest against the meeting, which this author says is entirely contrary to the sense of the town.

ART. XXXVI. *Mr. Pitt's Bill for augmenting the Assessed Taxes, examined upon the Principles of Justice and common Sense, and the Cause of Landlords, and of the County of Middlesex especially pleaded* 8vo. 30 pages. Price 1s. Johnson. 1797.

THE sensible author of this pamphlet shows, that Mr. Pitt's bill is cruel and tyrannical, and in no way answers, in it's operation, the description of the measure the chancellor of the exchequer professes it to be. It will ultimately fall upon the *owners of houses*, who must deduct from the rent what the bill now imposes on the tenant. He shows, that the landholder alone has escaped the ruin, in which the war has involved all other classes, and he would have him taxed: he wishes *a moderate rate to be levied by parliament on the rents now paid by tenants and landlords for real or copyhold estates, or a new and equal land tax.*

His observations are conclusive, and his plan is good, but he has forgotten an object of infinite magnitude, his plan would bear hard upon the majorities in both houses of parliament.

ART. XXXVII. *A Sequel to an Address to the lately formed Society of the Friends of the People.* By J. Wilde, Esq. 8vo. 68 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Edinburgh, Hill; London, Cadell. 1797.

THEY, who do us the honour to look back to page 194, of volume XVII of our Review, will see, that we noticed the first part of this work, with the respect due to the productions of genius enlightened and adorned by erudition.

This 'Sequel' contains evidence of the same mind employed in writing it, which dictated the former part; but we do not trace the same fire and energy here, which we there perceived.

The sentences are often involved, and not seldom obscure, in a high degree. The presiding mind seems oppressed by some deadening sorrow. The notions appear to us romantic, which are here brought forward, and the pressing of them upon his friends somewhat ill timed.

However, all is easy to accomplish, which he wishes, in the opinion of our eccentric author.

He says Britain has now nothing to do (page 9), but to effect a landing near Calais; and that her army may then march directly to Paris, unfought, amidst the acclamations of all the people: the king of France, marching at the head of the army, with all his nobles and priests, would now be received as the dispenser of blessings, and the prince of peace. All this is very charming, but we think it is a vision or a dream which flies from day light. It is, however, told, and it's effect we shall learn hereafter.

Mr. Wilde (and blessed is the man whose name admits not of a pun) having thus given the royalists his scheme of easy conquest, now proceeds, *theologically*, to examine the pretensions of the catholic church, and to prove, that it is bottomed in error, as fatal as that even  
of

of french atheism itself. For can we say less of that error, on which the edifice of the catholic church is built, which Mr. W. says, (p. 39.) 'takes christianity out of the world, and is the same as denying the revelation which God has made of his mercy to man.'

Our author having thus restored the monarchy, exhorts the catholics to become christians, and to adopt the sacred dogmas of Knox and the presbyterian church.

Mr. W. is a very orthodox divine; Calvin himself was not more so, or much more bitter in the sacred cause. When we hear that France is conquered, as easily as Mr. W. thinks it may be, we shall then re-examine his pretensions as a theologian; but if his conclusions concerning mere earthly things be wrong, we may question his possession of divine wisdom.

ART. XXXVIII. *A Familiar Epistle to Mr. Pitt on his Apostasy.* By a Friend to an uncorrupt Government. 8vo. 32 pages. Price 1s. Rickman.

A very pretty, well written letter, in which the author tells the minister much truth, in a very pertinent manner.

To those, who entertain no hope of Mr. Pitt, it will appear equally useless, to praise, or to reproach him.

ART. XXXIX. *French Invasion! A Collection of Addresses &c. of the Executive Directory of France.* 8vo. Price 6d. Wright. 1798.

THE collector of these addresses believes the french serious in their intention, to invade this country. Under this impression he has collected all they have published on the subject, with the hope that his conviction may become general, and the country be put into a proper posture of defence. Whether this gentleman's opinion be right or wrong, we must praise the motive, which has induced him to favour the public with this pamphlet.

ART. XL. *Some Observations on a late Address to the Citizens of Dublin; with Thoughts on the present Crisis. The fourth Edition, corrected by the Author. To which is added, Vindicator's Remarks on Sarsfield's Letters, which appeared in the Dublin Evening Post.* 8vo. 70 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Debrett. 1797.

WE are told this pamphlet is the production of Charles Francis Sheridan esq. Whoever is the author of it, it has a fair claim to attention and regard.

It is written with all the animation and ardour of genius, and although we do not subscribe to all the positions it contains, or even to it's main object, which is to dissuade from any present attempts at reform in Ireland, it would be a new thing with us, if we denied the merit of the composition, on account of the error, it appears to us to defend. We are fallible, as the author of these observations is, and as all men are, and we hold it to be the safest and best conduct of man, to be always ready to examine, and slow to conclude. We, therefore, warmly recommend this answer to Mr. Grattan to the attention of our readers, who will better judge of the ability of the writer, by the following specimen.



p. 3.—‘The spirit of salutary reform is, in its progress, slow, mild, cautious, discriminating; it corrects with the tenderness of a parental hand. The march of innovation is rapid, fierce, heedless, undistinguishing—it destroys with the vengeance of a foe. Who does not see it is the latter spirit, not the former, which now fills, agitates, and maddens the minds of men?’

‘This terrible visitation, which at the present moment threatens us, has not its origin in these kingdoms; it was wafted to us from foreign countries, in the pestilential breath of those self-denominated philosophers, the apostles of the *new lights*; a species of political atheists that some time since arose in France, who, believing in no principle, respecting no institution of ancient authority, either of their own, or of any other nation, under the pretence of correcting the corruptions, and reforming the abuses, of the french government in church and state, in reality levelled their poisonous shafts at whatever had hitherto justly commanded the obedience, the respect, or the reverence of mankind.

‘The corruptions and abuses of foreign governments, (which, when viewed with reference to such as may subsist in our own, are like great crimes, compared with venial trespasses) had, from their enormity, paved the way for the success of the preachers of the new doctrines; and the american revolution was the political miracle adduced by them, in pretended confirmation of their profane gospel, to dazzle the eyes, and confound the understandings of their deluded disciples.

‘Not satisfied with teaching them to renounce *blind* obedience; to disdain *servile* respect; to laugh at *superstitious* reverence;—they aimed at the destruction of the very *principles themselves*, of all human obedience, however due; of all human respect, however deserved; of all human reverence, however sanctioned.

‘These principles, founded on the propensities, feelings, and passions of man, with which Providence, designing him for civilized society, had plentifully supplied his unsophisticated nature,—furnish all those holds of his heart and mind, which render him susceptible of being governed by his fellow creatures: and it is alone, by means of such holds of the public mind of society, that any human government can exist.’

ART. XLI. *A View of the present State of Ireland, with an Account of the Origin and Progress of the Disturbances in that Country; and a Narrative of Facts, addressed to the People of England.* By an Observer. 8vo. 41 p. Price 1s. Jordan.

THIS author traces all the evils, which at present afflict Ireland, to the conduct of the king’s ministers. It is curious to observe how differently writers view events and their causes, as their feelings or their party influence them.

We know not whom to believe; but, that the reporter of facts obtain credit, it is surely necessary, that he favour the public with his name.

ART. XLII. *An Appeal to the sober Understanding of Englishmen, on the present State of Ireland.* 8vo. 49 p. Pr. 1s. Hatchard. 1797.

THIS

THIS pamphlet must be divided into two parts. The one contains reasoning on the claims of the dissatisfied: the other testimony concerning the present state of Ireland.

The latter we do not regard, because the pamphlet is anonymous; for, anonymous testimony weighs not with us: the former we think highly entitled to attention; for the author argues powerfully and conclusively, and is no contemptible writer.

ART. XLIII. *Reflections on the Irish Conspiracy; and on the Necessity of an armed Association in Great Britain. To which are added, Observations on the Debates and Resolutions of the Whig Club, June 6, 1797.* 8vo. 156 p. Pr. 2s. Sewell. 1797.

THIS pamphlet is written with considerable ability, and although we think the conclusion of the author erroneous, we refuse not to him the praise of ingenuity and vigour of mind. His object is to prove—1st, that a conspiracy to overturn the government existed in Ireland, and thence, 2ndly, to show that a similar conspiracy exists here.

For the proof of this irish conspiracy, he refers exclusively and solely to the report of the *secret committee* of the irish parliament; and whatever they report from documents, or infer from reasoning on their own prejudices, he takes for proof demonstrative. Now, knowing that the irish committee was exclusively composed of the instruments of administration, we confess we do not receive their reports as “proofs of holy writ.”

As to our author's attempt to infer an english from an irish conspiracy, it is truly ridiculous; as he has nothing to ground his opinion upon, except some vague expressions used, or said to be used, in the whig club, and other matters still more trifling.

In a vast community individuals will cherish opposite opinions; but we are so certain, that nothing amounting to any thing like a conspiracy exists, or did exist since the french revolution, in England; that, if this writer, or an angel from Heaven, were a thousand times to affirm the existence of such a conspiracy, we would not believe him.

The author spares no labour to prove, that englishmen should put themselves in an attitude of defence against the french, who now threaten to invade us. We think our navy a sufficient protection, if the french ever do attempt to come over.

We believe we have more to fear from the increase of our debts, than from the armies of France, separated as we are from the continent by the sea; and we wish the minister would endeavour to protect us against the consequences of his schemes of finance.

This writer, like all ministerial writers of the present day, attacks Mr. Fox, whom he sets down as a conspirator.

Mr. Fox and conspiracy! The most open, undisguised, sincere, and humane man in existence, at ease in his circumstances, connected with our ancient aristocracy, and warm in all his attachments, become a dark, plotting, intriguing, needy conspirator—he, who can believe this, has the faith that removes mountains, and may credit Mr. Pitt.

It is fortunate, that mere party writers generally run such a length in error, as to become harmless, through their audaciousness; and such we think will be the fate of this, otherwise not contemptible, writer.

ART. XLIV. *Letter to the Earl of Moira, in Defence of the Conduct of his Majesty's Ministers, and of the Army of Ireland.* 8vo. Price 1s. Stockdale. 1797.

LORD Moira, in his place in the house of lords, stated certain facts, which he offered to *prove at the bar of that house*.

Here, *an anonymous writer* states opposite facts. Whom shall we believe? Him who sanctions his report by the authority of an unsullied name, and offers legal proof of all he says? or him, who affirms much, but who dares not discover by what name he is called? The author speaks as a resident irishman; we doubt whether he be entitled to do this—we recommend to him however, if he have any pretensions to character, to reflect upon an expression of lord Bacon:—"Testimony is like a long bow, which derives all it's force from the hand that wields it; but argument is like a cross bow, which strikes with equal force, whether touched by a child or a giant."

ART. XLV. *A comprehensive View of some existing Cases of probable Misapplication, in the Distribution of contingent Allowances, particularly in the Militia of Great Britain; shewing the Wisdom and Propriety of a more general Consolidation than has hitherto taken place; and containing three different Estimates of Clothing for a Militia Regiment, with occasional Remarks upon the ruinous, unjust, and unproductive System of nett Off-reckonings in the Army. To which are added, cursory Observations on the Monopoly of regimental Appointments; the Absurdity of granting additional Companies, &c. addressed to the Earl of Moira.* By Charles James, late Captain in the Western Regiment of Middlesex Militia, and now Captain in the North York; Author of several political Tracts, &c.

CAPTAIN James here denounces a number of petty depredations committed on the privates of the militia, in the articles of oil, crocus martis, emery, great coats, shoes, stockings, and a variety of little articles, which, however contemptible in detail, occasion the most serious privations to the poor soldier. The author, however, is surely aware, that insignificant abuses are always countenanced in some measure by great ones, and until the latter are redressed, we cannot hope for the halcyon days, 'when it will no longer be within the reach of wealth or interest to fix a pair of colours in the nursery, or for the effrontery of intrigue to promise a commission under the actual casualty of birth; when the mother's womb will not contain this embryo of corruption, nor will the cradle hold the unfledged ensign for whose sake the friendless officer has been robbed of his promotion!'

It surely assumes the appearance of a job, that 'members of parliament, like theatrical performers, should have their *doubles*,' in the militia regiments; and it will scarcely be believed, by those ignorant of the fact, that the colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and major of the Sussex militia, are all incapacitated to act in their respective stations: the duke of Richmond, because he is a field-martial, and the right hon. Thomas Pelham, and Thomas Steele, because the one is irish secretary, and the other joint paymaster-general.

ART. XLVI. *The Second and Third Reports of the Society for bettering the Condition and increasing the Comforts of the Poor.* About 70 pages each. Price 1s. each. Becket. 1797.



We take up the papers of this society with lively enthusiasm. The common objection to all improvement is it's impracticability. It is the object of this society to remove this objection, by bringing forward evidence of *what has been done*. If ever there were a time, in which the exertions of all were necessary to relieve the accumulating wretchedness of the poor of this country, this is that time; when war has slain it's millions, and left orphans and widows without number; when the policy of ministers has deprived us of our foreign trade; and when unheard-of impositions are daily reducing thousands to hide their heads in workhouses or cottages, who were once the fathers of multitudes, at the head of extensive and productive manufactories. These two numbers contain—an account of a parish windmill—a village shop—the expense of making stewed ox's head—an annual distribution of linen—the kitchen of the Foundling fitted up under the direction of count Rumford—the house of recovery at Manchester—three cottages in Rutlandshire—benefit of white-washing rooms—the mode of supplying a country parish with a midwife—the advantages of cottagers renting land—a village soup-shop—a proposal for the relief of chimney-sweepers—a charity for placing out poor children—a charity for assisting the female poor at the time of their lying-in—an attempt to ascertain the circumstances of the beggars in London—a plan for supplying the poor with milk—a plan for allowing the poor a bounty on their work—the advantage of using rice in preference to flour—and the advantage of cottagers keeping pigs.

Such are the subjects on which information may be derived from a perusal of these two reports. Although our limits forbid us to indulge in long extracts in general, we should have no scruple on this occasion in “overstepping the modesty of our office,” and filling many pages with a lengthened analysis, and with extracts from these very valuable publications, did we not perceive, that the funds of this society enable the members of it to send many copies of every report *into every parish of the kingdom*, which, no doubt, they are careful to do.

We have already expressed our high approbation of this society\*, and again we say, we should be mortified if one of our readers were indifferent concerning it's influence and it's fate.

The papers contained in these two numbers are touching in the highest degree. No member of the community of mankind can read them attentively without benefit. It is sufficient to recommend this society to general esteem, to inform the public, that it boasts of the assistance of count Rumford, a man born for the salvation of nations, and the regeneration of the human race. Whoever suffers himself, to remain unacquainted with the works of this illustrious philanthropist, injures his country, and dishonours himself.

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SCHOOL BOOKS.

ART. XLVII. *Grammaire Angloise comparée avec la Grammaire Française, &c.—English Grammar compared with French; in which*

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\* See our account of their first report.

*the Principles and Idioms of the two Languages are explained in a new Manner, and illustrated by Examples sufficiently numerous to remove every Difficulty.* By Nicholas Salmon, Author of 'The Complete System of the French Language; A Footstep to the French Language; and an Etymological Dictionary, entitled, *Stemmata Latinitatis*,' &c. 12mo. 300 pages. Price 4s. sewed. 5s. bound. Dilly. 1797.

THIS work is entitled to distinction among grammatical publications. The author has shown himself, in his *Stemmata Latinitatis*, well acquainted with the theory of grammar, and very capable of unfolding the mechanism of particular languages. The design of Mr. S.'s present undertaking is, to facilitate the study of the english language to foreigners, and to furnish english youth with an useful help for acquiring an accurate knowledge of their native tongue, at the same time that they are improving themselves in french. Nothing can be better calculated to lead to a scientific knowledge of grammar, than comparative views of different languages. The comparison instituted in this work between the french and english is judiciously conducted; and to those, who have already made some progress in the knowledge of both languages, it will be very useful. The author dwells largely upon those peculiarities of the two languages, which require a difference of construction, and gives numerous examples to illustrate them. On the subject of conjunctions, which he calls conjunctive pronouns, he follows the theory of Mr. Horne Tooke in his 'Diversions of Purley.' Under this head, however, we have in vain sought for a clear rule for the use of the conjunction *if* with the verb; a point which has never been accurately settled by english grammarians, and with respect to which the practice of writers is irregular. Mr. S. insists largely on the subjects of the french subjunctive mood, and the infinitive mood with *à* or *de*, and has taken great pains to trace them up to their origin. He has very fully, and to those who are accustomed to metaphysical terms, very intelligibly, explained to foreigners the difficult subject of auxiliaries to verbs, particularly the use of *shall* and *will*, *should* and *would*. In the numerous examples upon this head we were, however, surprised, to find the following faulty expression left uncorrected. 'Could we see the beauty of virtue, we *would* be all equally in love with her:' this is scotch or irish; an englishman *would* say, and an irishman or scotchman *should* say,—'we *should* be all equally in love with her.' The general plan of this grammar is new: the author does not make syntax a distinct part, but, after having given the inflections, &c., treats, under each part of speech, or class of words, the manner in which they are employed in forming sentences, in a series of rules, notes, and observations. We shall not hastily pronounce this innovation an improvement; but we have no hesitation in recommending this french english grammar to the attention both of englishmen and frenchmen.

D. M.

ART. XLVIII. *The Little Family. Written for the Amusement and Instruction of young Persons.* By Charlotte Sanders. 2 Vols. 12mo. 311 pa. Price 5s. sewed. Bath, Cruttwell; London, Dilly. 1797.

MAY



MANY difficulties attend the writing for children; yet the attempt is always laudable. To interest the young mind, by blending amusement with instruction, to render knowledge attractive and facile, to awaken the affections in the cause of humanity, in language simple without vulgarity, and engaging without affectation, is an arduous and a delicate task.

There is much in these little volumes which deserves commendation; a vein of good sense and benevolence pervades them; yet the morality and the observations are in many parts too refined to be the language, or to suit the comprehension of children. In proof of this remark, a girl, eight years of age, having been informed of the benefits which result from mountains, or inequalities on the surface of the earth, exclaims, vol. 11, p. 36.

'Oh! sir, I shall never again behold a mountain, without enumerating the advantages we derive from it; and I now perceive, that in creation there is nothing useless; every part demonstrates the power and wisdom of that Being who formed the perfect whole.'

And again, the same little philosopher, p. 88.

'I think that by those dark spots on the moon which we saw so plainly in the telescope, its diurnal rotation might be ascertained; for mamma has told us, that there are spots upon the surfaces of almost all the planets; by which the time of their turning on their axis has been known, and by this also the length of her days and nights: may it not, sir?'

These deductions surely exceed the capacity of children at so early a period of life. When still younger, upon another occasion, observes the infant preacher, vol. 1, p. 38.

'He grieves for the loss of his dog, because it supplied to him the place of a friend. It is dead—he has none now. But if I might, (looking tenderly at Albert) I think I could recommend one who could comfort him in all his troubles. (Taking Albert's hand) May I ask you, sir! to be a friend of this unfortunate lad? Mamma, I am sure, will contribute something with us to render his situation in life more comfortable; but to his mind, who could give the comfort of your salutary counsels? Your friendship, therefore, would be more to him than all that *we* could do.'

Also, in reproof to a refractory companion, vol. 11, p. 141.

'A parent's wishes ought to be in every instance immediately obeyed. Consider, my dear cousin, that all our attentions, all that we can do for them, is very inadequate for what they have done for us.' The scientific lessons are likewise too technical, calculated rather to burden the memories, than to convey information to the minds of children, p. 92.

'Can you now tell me what that point of the moon's orbit is called, in which she is nearest to the earth?'

'CLARA. Her perigee, and that in which she is farthest off her apogee. These points are called her apses; the apogee the higher, the perigee the lower apsis.'

P. 72. 'The planets are likewise observed to change their figure from round to oval, just before the beginning of an occultation behind the moon, which can be attributed to no other cause than that their light is refracted by being seen through the moon's atmosphere.'

Notwithstanding these defects, we recommend, with pleasure, this production of a benevolent mind, to parents and families.



# LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

## HISTORY OF ACADEMIES.

ART. I. Stockholm. *Kongl. Vetenskaps Academiens nya Handlingar, &c.* New Transactions of the Royal Academy of Sciences. For 1796. Parts I—IV. 4to. 302 pages. 9 plates.

At the head of this vol. is an essay on the best form for anchors, the proper proportions of their parts, and the weight they should have in a ship of a given size; by vice-admiral Chapman. 2. Account of three remarkable wounds in the head; by O. von Acrel. One of these was occasioned by the edge of a dollar thrown in sport, and proved fatal. In another, the consequence of a fall out of window, a considerable quantity of blood continued to flow for three weeks out of the opening made by the trepan. 3. Description of a man born without hands, arms, legs, or feet; by J. P. Westring. He could write with a pen fastened to the stump of an arm, carve wood, draw, paint, turn, make watches, &c. He acted as counsellor in several causes. In 1787 he was married, and he is the father of four healthy children. 4. Continuation of an essay on the least distance of comets from our earth; by Mr. Prosperin. Mr. P. has here calculated the distances of all that have appeared since 1785, and finds that no one of them can come within less than thirteen times the moon's distance. Some additions to this article by Mr. Schröter appear in Part II, which is occupied principally by subjects of natural history. In Part III we have an excellent essay on the stereographic projection of the sphere, by Z. Nordmark. Remarks on mosses, by E. Acharius. Mosses differ in their organization from plants, in many respects; it is not improbable, that they are akin to the polypi; and many circumstances afford room for the conjecture, that, if they be not to be classed in the animal kingdom, the limits between the animal and vegetable kingdoms are not easy to be ascertained. Some other essays in natural history. And the occultation of Jupiter by the moon, sept. 23d, 1795, observed at Lilienthal by J. H. Schröter. In Part IV are a history of sciences, from the origin and advancement of physical astronomy, by D. Melanderhielm. Remarks on the larvæ of the great garden white butterfly, by S. Oedman. At a time when these were doing much mischief from their abundance, Mr. O. found four or five discharges of a pistol, in the evening, when all was still, the most effectual method of destroying them. He was led to this by the havoc loud claps of thunder make among silkworms. A new and simple mode of imparting a parallaxic movement to astronomical sea telescopes, by P. N. von Gedda. Description of a machine for cleansing and making drains in fields, by ensign J. Sjöbom. Much labour and expense are saved by the use of this machine. Efficacy of water impregnated with fixed air in nervous diseases, by J. L. Odhelius, from his own experience. Account of a number of flies issuing from the nose of a weakly child thirty-four

four weeks old, by P. G. Tengmalm. More than two hundred, of the species of the common house fly, came out of the nostrils, without occasioning any great inconvenience, except an occasional itching of the part. The author mentions more instances of similar guests taking up their abode in the human frame. A meteorological journal, by E. Prosperin, and the index, conclude the volume.

*Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

PHYSIOLOGY.

ART. II. Tübingen. C. Fried. Clossius über die Enthauptung. C. Fred. Clossius on Decollation. 8vo. 28 p. 1797.

Prof. Sæmmering lately wrote an essay, which was published first in the *Moniteur*, afterwards separately, maintaining, that the head was not deprived of consciousness till some time after it was separated from the body. We know of no answer to it, worth noticing, except one by Dr. Wedekind, the principal argument in which was the speedy evacuation of blood from the head. The author of the tract before us, whose early death we have to lament, defends the high probability of prof. S.'s opinion on various grounds, and shows the facility of Dr. W.'s refutation. The remarks of Mr. C., which have made more impression on us since we have read an attempt to refute them by Mr. C. A. Eschenmayer, in another small tract, entitled *Ueber die Enthauptung, &c.* 'On Decollation, in Answer to Prof. Sæmmering's Opinion,' may probably render those, who are desirous of mitigating the pain of capital punishment, inclined to prefer some other mode of inflicting death, by which consciousness may be more certainly annihilated with speed.

*Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

NATURAL HISTORY.

ART. III. Leipzig. *Grundriss der Naturgeschichte der Menschenspecies, &c.* Elements of the Natural History of the Human Species, sketched for Academical Lectures, by C. F. Ludwig, Prof. at Leipzig. 8vo. 325 p. 5 plates. 1796.

Among the many writings on anthropology lately published, this eminently distinguishes itself. It contains a large number of the most important facts, that have thrown so much light on the natural history of man, in modern days; it adds to these many excellent original remarks; it combines these methodically together; and draws from them instructive conclusions, without any immoderate propensity to novelty, and without extending the science beyond all reasonable limits. The book, therefore, deserves, on many accounts, to be recommended to every one, who is desirous of knowing himself.

*Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

MATHEMATICS.

ART. IV. Leipzig. *Gründlicher Unterricht von dem Gebrauche der Bouffale, &c.* Instructions for the Use of the Compass in practical Geometry,

Geometry, by J. Theoph. Riedel. 8vo. 216 p. 12 plates. 1795.

Few have taken sufficient pains to determine the degree of accuracy which the compass admits, the methods of proving it, the means of correcting the faults discovered, and other things necessary to be known in the use of this instrument, which certainly deserved to be the subject of a distinct treatise like the present; a treatise which will leave the reader in no point unsatisfied, if he be not a mere mechanic. With the method of ascertaining the variation of the needle, without previously drawing a meridian line, we were particularly pleased. *Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

## ARCHITECTURE.

ART. V. Berlin. *Sammlung nützlicher Aufsätze und Nachrichten, die Baukunst betreffend, &c.* A collection of useful Essays and Accounts relative to Architecture. For young Architects, and Lovers of the Science. Published by some Members of the Royal Prussian Upper Architectural Department. For the Year 1797. Vol. I. 4to. 194 p. Vol. II. 128 p. with plates.

This periodical work, to judge from the situation of the editors, and the execution of these two parts, promises to afford much instruction on architectural subjects. *Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

ART. VI. *Handbuch der Land-Bau-Kunst, &c.* The rural Architect's Manual, principally with a View to the Construction of Dwelling Houses, and other necessary Buildings, by D. Gilly. Vol. I. 4to. 297 p. with plates. 1797.

Notwithstanding all that has been published in Germany on the subject of rural architecture, a complete and comprehensive manual was yet wanting; and this Mr. G. has undertaken to supply. The present volume has an indisputable claim to the praise of method, clearness, precision, and, with a few exceptions, fullness. We have not only read it with pleasure, but in some points with instruction, and believe ourselves fully justified in recommending it to all young builders, and those who have any concern in the subject.

*Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

ART. VII. *Ueber Erfindung, Construction, und Vortheile der Bohlen-Dächer, &c.* On the Invention, Construction, and Advantages of Roofs formed of Planks, with a particular View to the original Writing of their Inventor, by D. Gilly. 4to. 77 p. 8 coloured plates. 1797.

This is a very interesting work on the subject of roofs.

*Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

## HISTORY OF LITERATURE.

ART. VIII. Zurich. *Lebensbeschreibungen berühmter, &c.* Lives of celebrated Men, &c. [see our Rev. Vol. XXIII, p. 447, Vol. XXV, p. 328]. Vol. III. 8vo. 514 p. 1797.



Prof. Meiners has dedicated the whole of this volume to Ulrich von Hutten, which may seem somewhat superfluous, after what has already been written respecting him, particularly in modern times. Yet, after comparing this work of prof. M. with what has hitherto appeared on the subject of this man, who perhaps stands single in his kind, not excluding what has been laboriously collected by Burckhard, Hutten's principal biographer, we are of a different opinion; and our attention has for some time been particularly turned to this celebrated knight, whose works we have collected, as far as was in our power, with diligence, and read with delight. We must observe, that the *Denkmal Ulrichs von Hutten* [Tribute to the memory of Ulrich of Hutten, translated by A. Aufreere: see our Rev. Vol. IV, p. 163], noticed by prof. M., and prefixed by Wagenfeil to the first volume of his intended edition of Hutten's works, which unfortunately did not meet with sufficient encouragement, was not written by Goethe, probably the author of the short essay in the German Mercury, for february, 1776, but by Herder, who has recently inserted it, with corrections, in the fifth collection of his *Zerstreuten Blätter*, 'Loose Leaves.' Prof. M. has subjoined to this volume two of Hutten's works; 'A Complaint and Caution against the immoderate unchristian Power of the Pope of Rome, and the ungodly Clergy;' and 'An Exculpation from some false Assertions.'

*Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

ART. IX. Magdeburgh. *Biographische und literarische Notiz von Johann Winkelmann, &c.* A biographical and literary Account of J. Winkelmann,—by J. Gurlitt. 4to. 38 p. 1797.

We here find several new anecdotes of W.'s early life, and more accurate accounts of some doubtful circumstances in it.

*Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

Art. x. Lisbon. The library of the celebrated Metastasio, consisting of some thousand volumes, chiefly splendid editions of classical authors, has been purchased from his heirs for the royal library at Lisbon, by Dr. Aloysius Careno.

## PHILOLOGY.

ART. XI. Leipzig. *Hebräische Sprachlehre, &c.* Hebrew Grammar, by J. Severin Vater. With a Criticism on the Methods of Danz and Meiner in the Preface. 8vo. 542 p. 1797.

With a few faults, of no great moment, this grammar contains many new, excellent, and striking remarks. We cannot recommend a better to any one, who would study hebrew thoroughly, and without any false art; and he who has been accustomed to other grammars will receive instruction from it.

*Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.*

FOR THE  
ANALYTICAL REVIEW,  
FOR JANUARY, 1798.

A  
RETROSPECT OF THE ACTIVE WORLD:

OR,  
A GENERAL REVIEW OF DISCOVERIES, INVENTIONS,  
AND PRACTICAL CONTROVERSIES, AND CONTESTS.

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DISCOVERIES in SCIENCES, and inventions and improvements in the mechanical arts, are of a precise and determinate nature, that admits, as they rise, of easy and accurate description. The vicissitudes in the liberal or fine arts are not so quick, or easily marked. The taste of a century or age may be described; not that of a month or year. In former numbers of this paper, we have glanced at this subject. In the present number, according to a former engagement, we shall commence our observations on the Active World, in 1798\*, by a summary review of the present state of the imitative arts, as well as of the sciences, in this country.—And first of

POETRY.

To take a retrospect of the progress of the muse of poetry from what has been called the augustan age of queen Anne, we shall find that her efforts have been frequent, and vigorous, but not in very many instances happy and successful.

Pope, who was considered as the great practical luminary, was rather a smooth and elegant versifier, than a poetic genius. His philosophy was borrowed from Shaftesbury and Bolingbroke; and, even in point of morals, his grand forte, his *Eloisa* and *Abelard* has done more mischief, than all his moral writings have done good. His translation of *Homer*, for which he was greatly indebted to the labours of others, is his best, and, indeed, an admirable work. His reputation as a poet, and this is a proof of the true critical spirit of the present age, is in a rapid decline. He is still held in high and just estimation, for eschewing foreign

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\* Though taste in the arts be an operation of the mind only, yet it influences and leads immediately to a very great proportion of the active pursuits of men.

phrases and idioms, and maintaining the purity of the english language. Addison, who was an elegant scholar, and just critic, wrote decent verse. Parnel, superiour to Addison as a poet, was classical and elegant; but did not possess much of the native fire of poetry. Rowe, in his plays and translations, was sometimes energetic, frequently pathetic, with an easy flow of versification; but deficient in variety, and too florid. The prettinesses of the poetic art too often seduced him from attention to the dignity. A number of verse-makers, following authors who had attuned the public mind to poetry, appeared at the same time, as candidates for the laurel: to whom Dr. Johnson, by preserving them in his biography, has paid too high a compliment. The doctor, writing, in general, more for the ready penny, than for fame, found it an easy matter to dispatch the unimportant characters he took in hand; as it required very small powers of criticism to discuss their merits. Young, whose mind was of a highly poetical order, but, from a false taste, hunting after subtleties (allowable, perhaps, in metaphysics, logic, to which his genius was naturally turned, but by no means in poetry) and, through an undisciplined impetuosity, bounding sometimes into the obscure, still, with all his faults, sustained the honour of the british muse. His Night Thoughts exhibit a very uncommon depth of comprehension, united to great vigour of language. Too riotous in figurative expression, he becomes, to common conceptions, difficult; and consequently could not expect many readers. Nevertheless, few authors have been so universally perused and admired. Thomson succeeded Young in publication, and will do honour to the british Parnassus, whilst sublime views, and picturesque description, possess a charm. At the time of his education, or the formation of his mind, the baconian method of investigation, and the newtonian philosophy, founded on that system, universally prevailed; detached the minds of the ingenious youth from the mere mines of antiquity, and the mere imitation of the ancients, and fixed attention on the book of nature. The true muse that animated the poet was philosophy. The seasons of Thomson are a philosophical picture of nature, physical and moral. His tragedies breathe the purest morals, the tenderest sentiments, and noblest principles of liberty; on which subject he wrote a poem, in the spirit of Greece and Rome, under that title. Collins, of equal poetic powers, though less comprehensive in his knowledge and views, was found as worthy, as well disposed, to lament his early death, and celebrate his unspotted fame. Akenfide, Armstrong, and others, bred in the school of Thomson, though unequal in poetic powers, imitated him, not unhappily, in philosophical description. But the noblest disciple of this school, of philosophy, described in the charms of poetry, is Dr. Darwin, author of the Botanic Garden. Though it be evident, that Dr. Darwin has perused with admiration, which always commands a degree of imitation, the Seasons of Thomson, we do not affirm that he is his sole model. It appears to us, that the doctor is also intimately acquainted with Lucretius, and the Georgics of Virgil. Soon after Thomson, came Mason, Gray, Churchill, and Shenstone. The first, by his Caractacus and Elfrida, soon ob-



tained a classical reputation; they are works of splendid declamation. As for pathos, so necessary a quality of the tragic muse, the author knew nothing about it. Mason was a poet made by education; nor can we except Gray from the same classification, notwithstanding his pretty and popular elegy. Churchill was possessed of the spirit of Juvenal; very little poetry pervades his labours: a good deal of strength, and much malignity. Shenstone was a shrub on the mountain: bating the School-mistress, which is a masterpiece in it's kind, and a few lines, to be picked from a few ballads, he has no other merit to recommend him. Nor must we omit Glover, whose Leonidas, though pompous, dry, and uninteresting, was lucky enough to gain admirers. By a natural transition, we pass from Glover to Wilkie, author of the *Epigoniad*, and of some fables. His fables, in simplicity at least, if not always in aptitude and beauty, resemble, as they are evidently intended to resemble those of Gay. In his *Epigoniad*, he equals, at least, the harmony of Pope's versification, and excels him in variety of cadence; while he enters with a wonderful versatility of mind and knowledge of the circumstances and character of the heroic ages of Greece, into the very spirit and soul of Homer; yet Wilkie scarcely deserves to be ranked among the poets. He was an ingenious philosopher, natural and moral, and is reported to have betaken himself to the study and practice of poetry, according to his own confession, only in compliance with the taste that prevailed in his early years, and as the most probable means of gaining patronage. We have not noticed in his proper place, the scottish poet Allan Ramsay, whose genius, though bred only to the lowly profession of a barber, and though he wrote in the scottish dialect, rendered, by the union of the crown and kingdom of Scotland with those of England, uncouth and unfashionable, and not easily intelligible to the greater part of english readers, has yet burst through the cloud of all these disadvantages; such is the magic power and infection of genuine nature; and obtained a name, until the scottish dialect shall become totally extinct, never to die. The same, and even superiour praise, we hesitate not to bestow on the scottish bard, a ploughman of Airshire, but initiated into the rudiments of literature, as is common even among the lower ranks of Scotland, the celebrated Robert Burns. It was believed for some time at Edinburgh, that the *Gentle Shepherd*, and other poems, were the productions of Mr. Hamilton of Bangour; but time has confirmed, beyond all doubt, the title of the real author, Allan Ramsay.

We have not in this sketch said any thing of Swift, and Arbuthnot, who were not so much to be considered as poets, as men of wit, burlesquing poetry, and expressing wit and humour in measure and rhyme. On the whole, the present century has been far less distinguished than the last, by the genuine and original strains of poetry.—All poetry is, indeed, original; but we use this term for the purpose of recalling the distinction between the poet and the man of rhymes. We now come to our own times.

Cowper, the moral Cowper, though at times uncommonly prosaic and tedious, abounds with original thoughts and a fervour of expression;

expression; his reputation is considerable, and he deserves it. When a man writes in blank verse, there is a dignity that should not be deserted. To be prosaic and tame is little less than burlesque. There are other writers too, the *minora sidera* of the present hour, such as Mr. Jerningham, Mr. Merry, Mr. Gifford, &c., with a number of ladies, who have gained attention.— Among these Mrs. Greville, author of the fine and delicately tender Ode to Indifference, and Mrs. Barbauld are particularly distinguished; and may probably, indeed, survive the present day, and be transmitted to future ages. Nor would the fine feelings, the rich fancy, and the glowing colours of Mrs. Robinson be vulgar or ineffectual claims to praise, if her native muse were not tainted with the affected airs and disgusting conceits of Della Crusca. Her first novel, written in that false taste, is greatly inferior to her last two, in which it is abandoned. Let this be a hint to her muse. We must also distinguish from the herd of rhymers, the unknown author of the Heroic Epistle to Sir William Chambers: A Postscript to the Heroic Epistle: and an Epistle to Dr. Shebbeare. These three poems are full of spirit, and of as elegant satire as ever has been produced in the english language. But he, who in the present time best deserves the name of poet, and leaves all his contemporaries far behind him, is Dr. Walcott, who, under the name of Peter Pindar, has delighted and charmed us in such a variety of pieces on various subjects, but chiefly such as present themselves from time to time to the public attention; equally powerful in the ludicrous and pathetic; not more acute to discern the incongruity of folly, and the deformity of vice, than penetrating to discern the more delicate features, and prompt to praise every distinguished exertion of virtue. The humour and the whole manner of this writer are *sui generis*, and perfectly his own. He draws from life and nature; but these he surveys sometimes with an arch, sometimes with a melting eye\*. He chastens the luxuriant and extravagant mirth of Rabelais, by the reasoned wit of Swift, and seasons it with the fascinating humour of Arbuthnot; while at other times he is more tender than Hammond, and at others equals Juvenal himself in nervous indignation. Though it has not been said that ever he writes ill, it has been insinuated, that he makes his muse too cheap, by employing her too often on the public stage. There is one subject, which we recommend to his notice, and which is worthy of his fire. A lady of the first order in station, accomplish-

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\* Peter Pindar has drawn great admiration on the continent, even among many who contemplate his beauties under the veil of a translation; and is a proof of how much importance a man of uncommon genius and celebrity is to his country. Kosciuszko, the celebrated polish hero, who acquired some knowledge of the english tongue in America, is a great admirer of Peter Pindar, whose works were his constant companions when in confinement in Russia, and afterwards on his voyage from St. Petersburg to London. When he was here a few months ago, being unable from indisposition to wait on the poet, he sent for him, and conversed with him. He sent him a present of some falernian wine.



ments, and virtues, neglected and insulted though a stranger; a kind of prisoner in a land of liberty; an out-cast in the midst of relations; and equally avoided by the worshippers of the rising and setting sun! When such things are recorded in history, either little credit is given to the historian, or the nation that suffers them is considered as barbarous. It belongs to the generous feelings of a true poet, to console the afflicted, and vindicate the honour of his times and country.

This summary, of the present state of the arts and sciences, to be resumed in our next.

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WE have not forgotten, and shall not be unmindful of our engagement, to keep an attentive eye, and from time to time to give an account of

UNIVERSITIES, and other famous SEMINARIES of learning: a subject on which we have begun to make some remarks in our last two numbers. In these we have given a sketch of the origin of universities in human nature, and some modifications they have undergone from the operation of varying circumstances and opinions. We have made some observations applicable to the present state of all universities; but of Oxford and Cambridge our accounts have been more particular. We should now go on in a tour through the most noted universities; and first of course with what remain to be noticed in our own island, those of Scotland; if we did not conceive it to be good economy to return, without farther delay, to our circle of 1. Agriculture. 2. Arts and Sciences. 3. Commerce. These are the most important objects of our Retrospect. They must not be kept too long out of view; and attention, as well as every power of the mind, is wonderfully invigorated, as well as the imagination relieved and pleased by variety\*. Having taken a brief survey of inventions and discoveries under our three grand heads, we shall return to the state of universities, in our number for the month of April.

Though the following notices might, with equal propriety, be introduced under the head of revenue, or in general political economy, we have classed them under that of

#### AGRICULTURE,

with which they have a near connexion, and to which they afford great encouragement.

The scenes, which, in their importance, are but, in fact, commencing on the celebrated and classic theatre of great actions, Italy, have arranged themselves around Milan, which they have, as it were, chosen for their capital. That populous and rich city has advantages, which are not generally known; and it is not, perhaps, the mere accident of war, that has induced Buonaparte, to pitch

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\* Hence the charm of books of anecdotes, though unconnected by any principle of association.



upon this as the centre of a new roman commonwealth. The Milanese is not only the richest country in Europe, but the best regulated in respect to the division and cultivation of the soil, and the mode of collecting the public revenue. Every field of this duchy has been surveyed. The map of the whole country is at the exchequer upon the largest and a subdivided scale: so that every farmer can there see his own particular spot, and the sum he has to pay to government. All sales of land are merely a registered transfer on this map, so that all the expenses of conveyancing and title deeds have long since been saved to the milanese. The same arrangement saves the people from the vexations of tax-gatherers. For every community or district associates, and, knowing the exact dues of government, they pay the whole into the hands of their own members, who transmit the whole, and frequently in advance, to the public exchequer. The parochial and highway expenses are settled in the same manner, and assessed by the same proportion of the landed interest of every proprietor. Such a register of possessions and property is, in the french language, called *cadastre*.

They, who would wish to see the cadastre of Milan, may satisfy their curiosity by applying to the secretary of the board of agriculture. A gentleman, a member of that board, who was in Milan in 1791, and honoured with much attention by the late emperor Leopold, obtained a copy of the cadastre, and having had it translated into different languages, dispatched it to the board. It is the copy that was made out for the emperor; and the arrangements which it contains are found to bear a near affinity to Akbar's celebrated asiatic regulations for measuring the land, and collecting the revenue of Bengal, where they still prevail. Much has been written on the subject of this cadastre in the french Encyclopedia. The emperor Joseph endeavoured to introduce it throughout all his dominions: but with his usual precipitation, and without due regard to existing opinions and circumstances, and thereby nearly excited a general revolt. In the time of Lewis XV, all France was begun to be surveyed for a similar end to that attempted by Joseph, and in Milan effected by Leopold. But the plan was counteracted by the lawyers and revenue officers. The idea of introducing the cadastre of Milan into France has lately been revived. We find, in the late debates in the council of five hundred, a petition to have the whole empire surveyed and regulated on this plan, which petition was referred to a committee; and assuredly, on the return of peace, will not be neglected.

It is confessed, that this enrolment, with the purposes to which it is applied, is not a recent invention. We have something very like it in our own doom's-day registration. In ancient times, and in the middle-age, before the universal reign of commerce, it was as common as natural, for sovereign princes to number the people, and also to form an estimate of their substance, that they might know the strength of the nation, and what they had to rely on, in war, or any other undertaking. Why then introduce into our Monthly Retrospect an invention so far from being recent? Though the invention be not recent, the existence and importance of the invention is to be numbered, in this island, among recent discoveries;

discoveries; it appears to us of the greatest magnitude. We entirely subscribe to the considerations, that induced the gentleman above-mentioned, whom we highly respect, to take the trouble of having the cadastre of Milan translated into different languages for the good of mankind, and particularly sending a copy for the benefit of his native country; which considerations were these: that, if the spirit of this plan, which at once ascertains the value and property of the soil, and collects the public revenue, without either expense or patronage, be once fairly united with a constitution of government similar to that with which we are (or were) blest, in this country, civilization will then acquire a stability equally independent of tyranny on one hand, and insurrection on the other. While this mode of collecting taxes would take away the enormous influence of the crown in the complicated system of collection, it would be a great saving of expense to the nation. An easy opportunity of introducing this plan into this island is offered by the occasion of distributing the waste lands; a design which we hope is not abandoned, but to be resumed as soon as possible. On this occasion, such a tenure of landed property may be established without the least inconvenience, as may serve as a model to be imitated gradually by the legislature, and by landholders in their leases to tenants, as opportunities may invite, or circumstances permit. But instead of fixing a certain rate, to be paid to government, in perpetuity, it would be more equitable, as well as more readily and easily carried into execution, to assess, in lieu of all other taxes, a certain proportion of the landed rent. It is, perhaps, to the cadastre of Milan, now brought into general notice by the patriotism of individuals, and particularly by the public councils of France, that we ought to trace certain useful projects that are now started, and that claim the attention and the gratitude of the public, as that of Mr. Gray, for an

EQUAL, GENERAL, AND INCREASED LAND-TAX, IN LIEU OF  
ALL OTHERS.

MR. GRAY's doctrine is this: that since manufactures (however they may circulate money from one private hand to another) yield no revenue to the state, and the land is ultimately found to yield the whole, the public supply ought to arise from a land-tax; and that our present financial system is a jumble of absurdity, which ought to be gradually abolished. Mr. Pitt has at length made an attempt to get rid of the most pernicious system of funding, by his new plan of taxation for this year; but he has mistaken the proper object. Instead of tripling the assessed taxes, he ought to have equalised and doubled, or, if necessary, tripled the land-tax; at present not only so low, but so scandalously disproportioned, that some possessors of estates stand nearly exempted from public burdens. It is clearly demonstrable, too, that of all taxes a land-tax is the most constitutional. Military service for the defence of the state was the universal tenure, according to the feudal system of our constitution.—See our account of the *Essential Principles of the Wealth of Nations*, in our review of books for september last; an essay that greatly merits the attention of the public



public. Nearly a-kin also to the spirit of the milanese cadastre is a plan lately devised, and soon, we are informed, to be laid before the legislature and the public, for

#### THE SUPPLYING OF LONDON WITH BREAD,

at an uniform price from one year to another, according to an annual assize, on a system, that may be adopted by every corporation in the kingdom, would give encouragement to agriculture, and prevent an extravagant rise of prices in case of a future scanty harvest.

In perfect conformity with the spirit of the above plans is a scheme just published\*, for strengthening the hands of government, and, at the same time, relieving the country from much oppression, confusion, and consequently discontent. It is proposed, that each individual, or collective body, holding property either in land, mortgage, government, or east-india funds, should be taxed *ad valorem* of their respective property; and that a power should be vested in the hands of government, to call on the different districts, according to emergencies, for a quota of men fit to carry arms. In short, the plan proposes a vigorous union of purse and persons. We see how much is done on the continent without much money, and how little, in fact, we are able to do with it; at least, comparatively speaking. The plan alluded to would save a great deal of money, by having recourse to personal services, agreeably to our original constitution; and unite rural occupation with military exercise, as in Prussia, and other parts of the continent. There has been a tendency, for near two centuries, to measure every thing by money, and to sacrifice every thing to commerce. The tide is beginning to turn; we begin to perceive, that steel is better than gold; pecuniary of less value than physical wealth; and commerce of inferior importance to agriculture.

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#### NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

THE councils of France, uniting the deepest policy with the greatest ferocity, maintain their armies by contributions, while they labour to cut the sinews of our strength, manufactures, and commerce, by excluding us from all the great ports of Europe. Proceeding in this plan, they have demanded a *loan* from Hamburgh, with the expulsion of the english; and begun to seize and confiscate english merchandise, wherever they can find it, in their own shops and warehouses, or in the ships of neutral nations. All this is an open violation of the rights of nations. But it would be idle, to declaim on this point. The french do not pretend to be directed in their conduct by either morality or religion. The only points that merit and command our attention are, what will be the result of a conduct so violent and unusual? And what can the english nation oppose to the system of her enemy for the protection of her trade? The rulers of the republic appeared for many months to connive at a trade with England, and even encourage it; thus the poor merchants of France were

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\* By a freeholder of the county of York.—Robinsons.



led into a snare. When their warehouses were full, the directory seized their prey. Neutral vessels have also been seized, and, in some instances, it is said, detained, although the articles they contained were not english. It remains to be seen, whether this conduct will rouse an effectual opposition to the present government of France, at home, or among foreign nations. They are busily employed in building rafts, floating islands of wood, for the transportation of troops, as is given out, to this island. The french nation have done wonders in the way of invention, as well as of courage; yet it seems to be the opinion of the best judges, that such ponderous bodies of so broad a surface, and without a proportionable elevation at the extremities, if they could be directed, would run the greatest danger either of being torn to pieces by the action of the sea, or of foundering. The most probable opinion is, that, after all this mighty construction of rafts, they will, if they invade us at all, make their attempts in different parties, in vessels or rowboats at the same time, on different parts of Britain and Ireland. But what we have most reason to be afraid of is procrastination. Nothing better, probably, than an actual and speedy invasion could happen to us. It is protracted and accumulated expense we have to dread; which, while it exhausts the resources of government, dispirits and dissatisfies the people. Still there is a party in France friendly to order and moral principles, at the head of which are Barras and Buonaparte. Were these men to gain a decided ascendancy in the state, and were we to meet them fairly in the spirit of the fourteenth article of the peace between the republic and the emperor, general peace and concord might be founded on the general repression of anarchy, agreeably to the plan of the late emperor, who did not mean to carry his arms against the new republic, until a confederacy should be formed among the independent powers, for the prevention of anarchy on the one hand, and ambitious conquest on the other; such a confederacy as was conceived by Henry IV of France, and has since been recommended by different writers. To adopt this plan, sovereign powers will not be persuaded by reasoning; but they may probably be led to it by the course of affairs; which will emphatically impress on the minds of the nations, and even those of ministers and kings, the expenses of war, and the difficulties and dangers which these involve. It is a pity, that it is only by dreadful misfortunes, that Europe will learn to know, that her real glory, as well as happiness, consists in the union, peace, and harmonious intercourse of one federative state. It is to the language of moral principles, and reasonable concession, that we must return, if we really wish for peace. That petulant abuse, which disgraces so many of our orators in parliament, will undoubtedly be condemned, on cool reflection, by all parties. Let us speak candidly: the french bully the nations at land; the english at sea: both must lower their tone, and pay respect to the rights and just claims of other nations. Our young and vulgar statesmen, unaccustomed to restraint, impatient of control, and neither corrected, nor, indeed, it would appear, greatly disgraced by uniform blunders and misfortunes, obstinately continue to calculate their policy by little personal interests, or popular prejudices on the objects of the day, without attending to the

the change that has taken place in public opinion, and in the state of Europe.

## SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

LISBON, and the Tagus, are still in the possession of the english, though hostilities are certainly intended by the republic against Portugal.

## ITALY

APPEARS to be on the eve of bursting into fresh convulsions. We have not yet gotten to the bottom of the late insurrection at Rome; but one thing is pretty certain: the secular power of the pope is at an end. Whatever patrimony, either from piety or policy, may be left to the successors of St. Peter, the pope will no longer be reckoned among sovereign princes.

## GERMANY.

THE french still threaten Switzerland. Whether do they want a contribution, or some extension of territory, as Basle, towards the source of the Rhine? Perhaps both. Will the french be contented with making the Rhine the boundary of their empire? or will they not rather, according to their system of robbery on a great scale, impose a duty on the navigation of that great river? They seem determined to keep certain posts, that secure their entrance at any time into Germany. In Germany there are, in fact, only two independent powers at the present moment. How the french and emperor have disposed of the states and princes we do not yet know; but the king of Prussia ordered the duke of Brunswic to dismiss the emigrants, as if the duke had been his vassal. The senate and people of Hamburgh have refused to comply with the requisitions of the republic; this gives credibility to the report, that a confederation is agreed on among the

## NORTHERN POWERS,

for the purpose of maintaining the freedom of the seas. It is, indeed, high time. If the french be permitted to extend their dominion from the Rhine to the Elbe, will they not carry it onward to the Baltic? According to present appearances, the subjection, or the independence of Europe, depends on the fate of the very small state of Hamburgh. Is it even the interest of the king of Prussia, that the united voice of Austria and France should be obeyed on the Elbe with trembling submission? Would not a wise prince be jealous of such a combination, and rather attach himself to the northern powers that oppose them? We see but a very short way into futurity. Who can say what will be the state of Italy, of Germany, or of France herself, proud and imperious as she now is, three years hence? Strong parties are formed in the new italian republics; there is great unwillingness in the countries situate on the left of the Rhine, to be incorporated with France; the dutch have refused to swear hatred to aristocracy and monarchy. In all these circumstances, we can discern the probability of future and approaching struggles; but the political storm will clear up, at last, and we hope the influence of reason and moderation, with regard to the rights of nations, as well as of men, return.

## GREAT



## GREAT BRITAIN.

THE enemy point their darts at our most vital parts: our island and capital, and our commerce; yet instead of uniting universally for defence, we are engaged in mutual accusations of one party against another. The constant issue of the contest in France has been, not only the increase of her external power and alliances, but also of internal unanimity; while, on the contrary, the issue of party contention in our island is a stretch of power and prerogative on one hand, and of either sullen secession, or combination against the existing administration, on the other. Of this last we have recently had an instance that seems alarming. Two thousand persons, and among these many of the first consequence for all that gives political importance, assembled for the purpose of celebrating the birth day of Mr. Fox. The premier duke of England, not more distinguished by rank and fortune than the uniform consistency of his political conduct, and for sound judgment, gave as a toast, OUR SOVEREIGN: *the majesty of the people*. And he remarked, that general Washington had not more than two thousand persons about him, when he laid the foundation of american liberty. This looks somewhat like an invitation to general associations and a national convention.

It is true that the war, on our parts, was rashly begun, notwithstanding the prophetic warnings of Mr. Fox, the marquis of Lansdown, and others; and most miserably as well as unfortunately conducted, except at sea, after we were driven to mere naval war by necessity, not led by choice. It is also true, that the language of haughtiness and arrogance in the midst of folly and misfortune is provoking: yet something must be allowed to early elevation, and long continuance of the minister in office; to a mistake, which seems to be very natural to englishmen, of eloquence for ability; to the crowd of lawyers and others, who rally around him, and defend with much plausibility all that he does; to his freedom from avarice and personal rapacity; to the sincerity of his endeavours according to the best of his abilities; and also to the memory of his illustrious father. In fact, much of our resentment or admiration of ministers would cease, if we duly considered, that human affairs, on all great crises, find their own level by circumstances that we cannot foresee, measures that we cannot regulate, and passions that we cannot control. If the nation be of opinion, that he wants ability, perhaps temper and inclination, by an address to other european powers, and seizing the popular ground of just moral principles and extensive views, to make peace; and that others may be found better qualified for so great a task: let petitions be presented, agreeably to the constitution, for dismissing him from office; but let not a reform of parliament be pressed at the present moment.

## IRELAND.

This country is still torn by intestine discontents and discord, and threatened as well as Britain with foreign invasion.